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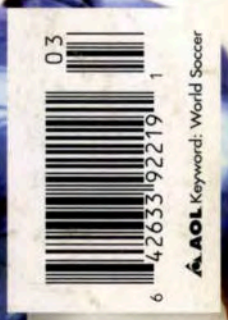


## ADRIANO

Face to face with the new king of Serie A

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

PLUS

FRANK RIJKAARD
Barcelona coach speaks out

LIBERTADORES CUP PREVIEW

GERMAN REFEREE SCANDAL

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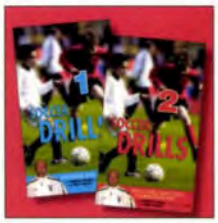

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**MARCH 2005**
**WORLD SOCCER**

# comment

THE refereeing scandal that has hit Germany in recent weeks looms large in this month's issue (see page 12), and the story is undoubtedly a subject that deserves our close attention. But whether the scandal threatens the credibility of next year's World Cup, as some people have suggested, remains to be seen.

Certainly, the reputation of German football has taken a battering as a result of the claims of Robert Hoyzer, the young referee at the eye of the storm. Unfortunately for the German FA, events have snowballed since Hoyzer's initial revelations, with the focus shifting to others who may have been involved.

It's always hard to take seriously the match-fixing claims of one man. We all desperately want to believe that our sport is clean, that events cannot be influenced by the actions of a single person. Match-fixing scandals in the past have tended to involve a number of different people – referees, players, club officials – who have worked in tandem to manipulate results.

The growth of internet gambling has raised new issues to be confronted by FIFA, yet we need to keep the Hoyzer scandal in perspective. Hoyzer never refereed a Bundesliga game, and was a world away from ever taking charge of European and international matches.

Nor should we let the bribery scandal detract from the good work of the German World Cup organisers on issues such as ticketing (see page 28) – though it is scandalous that you can book tickets online only with MasterCard, one of FIFA's key sponsors.

In fact, far more serious issues threaten to undermine the credibility of our game than a bent referee in the lower reaches of the German League. Not least the behaviour of many leading players. Wayne Rooney was the undoubted star of the last major international championship. Whether he can have the same impact in 16 months' time in Germany – assuming England qualify, of course – is debatable. On current form, Rooney is threatening to self-destruct in spectacular fashion.

The Champions League returns this month, an event we celebrate with the free booklet that accompanies this issue. For Rooney, Manchester United's games against Milan are a chance to confirm what many suspect – that the bigger the stage, the better he plays. Let's also hope that we see the Wayne Rooney that lit up Europe with a hat-trick on his Champions League debut – rather than the Wayne Rooney last seen snarling and swearing at referee Graham Poll at Highbury.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 26

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## WINTER TRANSFER ROUND-UP

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ITALY: Federation president Franco Carraro is confident Italy's bid to host the 2012 European Championship will be successful. **Page 34**

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## SINGAPORE END WITHE'S REIGN

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SPAIN: Villarreal are living proof that small clubs can succeed in La Liga. **Page 16**

## FENER PUT FAITH IN ANELKA

TURKEY: League leaders Fenerbahce, desperate to perform well in this season's UEFA Cup, have bought French striker Nicolas Anelka. **Page 50**

● 12/01/05

Try this for size...Liverpool coach Rafa Benitez unveils his new £6.3million signing from Real Madrid, Fernando Morientes

● 13/01/05

Arrival in Athens...Diego Maradona takes time out from detoxing in Cuba to travel to Greece for a promotional tour

● 14/01/05

Spot the galactico...Real Madrid welcome new signing Thomas Gravesen

# HEADLINERS

## VALERI BOJINOV

**Bulgarian teenager joins Fiorentina in biggest deal of transfer deadline day**

AFTER THE HYPE and hot air, the reality. The biggest deal on the final day of the winter transfer window did not involve one of Europe's star names or any of the brightest prospects from South America. Instead, Bulgarian teenager Valeri Bojinov left Lecce for Fiorentina for a fee of £9million.

Bojinov, who scored 11 goals in 20 Serie A games for Lecce this season, had inevitably been linked with a summer move to Chelsea. His arrival at Fiorentina took the spending of club president Diego Della Valle to almost £40m since last summer.

"I'm leaving behind a team and a city that welcomed me as a 13-year-old and allowed me to realise my dream of becoming a footballer," said Bojinov, now 19, who made his name as a schoolboy footballer in Malta, where he was spotted by Lecce scouts.

There was little activity among Italy's top sides. Elsewhere, Roma hired Portuguese defender Abel Xavier from Hannover and Lazio signed striker Fabio Bazzani from Sampdoria.

It was a similar story in England, with Manchester United and Arsenal making no major signings and Chelsea bringing in only Jiri Jarosik on loan from CSKA Moscow. United sold Eric Djemba Djemba to Aston Villa for £1.35m. Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid to Liverpool, £6.3m) and James Beattie (Southampton to Everton, £6m) were the most expensive deals. Tottenham were the biggest spenders, bringing in Egyptian striker Ahmed 'Mido' Hossam from Roma and the Nottingham Forest pair of midfielder Andy Reid and defender Michael Dawson for a combined £8m.

Morientes left Spain for Anfield because of the competition for striking places in Madrid. That competition is unlikely to lessen as Javier Portillo has been recalled from his loan spell at Fiorentina. Real Madrid made one new signing, the Dane Thomas Gravesen from Everton for £2.5m, while Liga leaders Barcelona brought in former Italy international Demetrio Albertini from Atalanta (free) and Maxi Lopez from River Plate (£4.2m).

Elsewhere in Spain, Jesper Gronkjaer arrived at Atletico Madrid from Birmingham, while Villarreal signed two more Argentinians – Juan Pablo Sorin (Cruzeiro) and Luciano Figueroa (Cruz Azul).

> **'I'm leaving behind a team and a city that welcomed me as a 13-year-old'**
>
> *Valeri Bojinov*

In Germany, the major deals were done by Borussia Monchengladbach, who signed Giovane Elber from Lyon, Craig Moore (Rangers) and Wesley Sonck (Ajax), among others. Bayern Munich re-hired former full-back Bixente Lizarazu, while the USA's Landon Donovan returned to Bayer Leverkusen.

In Holland, Ajax have turned to Greek striker Angelos Haristeas to boost their firepower, while Brazilian signings remain popular at PSV, who brought in Robert from Atlas, and Feyenoord, who hired Andre from Flamengo.

Turkey's Fenerbahce were involved in one of the biggest deals, signing Nicolas Anelka for £5.35m.

Despite the flurry of late activity, the biggest transfer of the winter window was the shock £10.5m deal that took Carlos Tevez from Boca Juniors to Corinthians of Brazil. Corinthians also signed Carlos Alberto from FC Porto for £5m.

● 16/01/05

Celebration time...Singapore beat Indonesia 5-2 on aggregate to win the Tiger Cup Final

● 18/01/05

Down and out...Liverpool, missing several key players, are beaten 1-0 by Burnley in the FA Cup

# Numbers game

## 88 MILLION...

**the amount (in pounds) lost by Chelsea in the year up to June 2004, the largest single loss ever announced by a football club.**

## 3.5 MILLION...

**the amount (in pounds) earned by Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon last year.**

## 115.5 MILLION...

**Chelsea's wage bill last year (in pounds).**

## 35...

**the number of Chelsea employees paid more than £2million a year.**

## 20 MILLION...

**the amount (in pounds) spent by Chelsea last year in severance payments to former employees such as manager Claudio Ranieri.**

## 696 MILLION...

**the amount (in pounds) paid out in an annual share dividend in August 2003 by Russian oil company Sibneft. Roman Abramovich is believed to own about 50 per cent of Sibneft.**

## 7.5 BILLION...

**the estimated wealth (in pounds) of Abramovich, according to the *Sunday Times* Rich List.**

## CARLOS BILARDO

ARGENTINA'S former coach sparked a major row when asked by a Brazilian magazine about long-standing claims that Brazil full-back Branco was drugged by drinking water offered to him by the Argentinian masseur during the Argentina-Brazil match at the 1990 World Cup.

"I'm not saying it didn't happen, I don't know," Bilardo said. Later he claimed his words were taken out of context and he did not put anything in anybody's water bottle.

The masseur, Miguel Di Lorenzo – always known as Galindez – said: "If I had put something in the water, Branco would not have finished the match."

But in a radio interview, Diego Maradona said it happened and Horacio Basualdo, who also played in the Argentina side, said: "The story is true. The temperature was over 40°C but I was told not to touch the water and then Branco took it."

Bilardo, well-known for his extreme gamesmanship – ever since his playing days with Estudiantes de La Plata – is now viewed as rather eccentric in Argentina. He once claimed he was going to run for state president and last year, when coach of Estudiantes, he held a 12-hour training session to the accompaniment of jazz music.

The last word – or is it? – went to Argentinian FA chief Julio Grondona. "As far as I know the Brazilian confederation hasn't protested in all these years, but if they do, Tulio's handball goal in the 1995 Copa America should also be investigated. This whole thing doesn't make sense and the whole story doesn't interest me at all."

## ROBERT HOYZER

THE CENTRAL figure in the bribery scandal that has shocked German football in recent weeks. The 25-year-old was one of the most promising young referees working his way through the ranks of Germany's lower divisions. Hoyzer now faces a lengthy ban from the game, not to mention the threat of legal action. *Full story, page 12.*

● 18/01/05

Join the club...ex-Germany coach Rudi Voller returns to Bayer Leverkusen as sporting director

● 19/01/05

Pick and mix...England coach Sven Goran Eriksson is one of the guests of honour at the draw for the 2005 European Women's Championship, to be held in England in June

● 23/01/05

We weren't pants!...Livorno celebrate a famous victory over Milan in Serie A

# WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville

**...on three World Cup knobbling intrigues: Branco 1990, West Germany 1954, Gordon Banks 1970...plus, the Roy Carroll debate continued**

Dope victim?...Brazil's Branco

**'Argentina, thankfully, did not win the World Cup in Italy. Otherwise there would be speculation about whether it might be taken away from them'**

WELL, it seems after all to have been all too horribly true.

When, in 1990, Brazil's left-back Branco insisted that he had been given a bottle of doped water by the Argentinian physio during the teams' World Cup second round match it seemed the stuff of science fiction. But Carlos Bilardo, Argentina's then manager, now seems implicitly to have admitted it. Confessed, that is to say, that his physio, one Miguel Di Lorenzo, had given Branco from the touchline a bottle of water previously doctored with tranquillisers. The Brazilian then played the rest of the game, a 1-0 defeat, in a daze.

But now that we know what happened that hot day in Turin – Brazil striker Bebeto previously told us that Di Lorenzo had confessed to him at a banquet – what if anything is to be done? Argentina, thank goodness, did not win the World Cup in Italy, otherwise, no doubt, there would be speculation over whether it might be taken away from them.

But although, so far as I know, FIFA has no equivalent of the legal world's statute of limitations – a prescribed period of time within which prosecutions or suits must be brought – in this case bygones will have to be bygones, sleeping dogs will have to be let lie.

Just as they have, after all, in the case of the West Germany team who so unexpectedly won the 1954 World Cup Final against Hungary in Berne. They

● 24/01/05

Crisis talks...German federation president Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (left) holds discussions over the country's growing referee bribery scandal

● 27/01/05

Fired...Vicente Del Bosque is sacked as coach of Besiktas

● 28/01/05

Checking in...Italian midfielder Demetrio Albertini undergoes a medical at his new club, Barcelona

**'We could surely have done without the comments of FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who added his Euro-worth to the Carroll debate'**

were themselves surely doped in what might be called, however, a positive way.

There was much speculation about this at the time. Ferenc Puskas, Hungary's captain, declared that when he went into the German dressing-room after the game their players were vomiting all over the place. In the months that followed, a suspicious number of that German team were laid low by jaundice. And then last year the matter seemed to be clinched when a dressing-room attendant belatedly announced that he had subsequently found syringes in the drains.

So Puskas seems to have had a point. But it's too late now.

The matter of Gordon Banks' illness on the eve of England's quarter-final against West Germany in Leon in the 1970 World Cup has also been raised, if somewhat erroneously.

I was staying in the same motel as the England team and recall the alarming sight, a few hours before the noon kick-off – in appalling heat and at dizzying altitude – of Banks staggering across the lawn on the arm of the England doctor, Neil Phillips. There was no way he would be able to play, and poor Peter Bonetti, who replaced him, short of match practice, had a doleful day as England threw away a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2.

The word was that Banks had drunk what W C Fields once called "the fatal glass of beer", but when a couple of years or so ago I met the keeper at a reunion of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team, he assured me that he had drunk nothing of the sort, but simply eaten and drunk what every other member of the squad had done.

Why, he was still wondering, was he and he alone affected by the bug, unless of course he had deliberately been poisoned?

Switch to Washington DC, where the late Bob Oxby, who had reported the 1970 tournament, went on his way home to visit the well-known Democrat senator Stuart Symington, a relative. He said Symington told him, a propos of Banks and his illness: "It was the CIA. You don't think we were going to let Brazil be beaten, do you?"

The implication was that the USA favoured Brazil to win the World Cup, as indeed they went on to do, in the hope that it would enrapture the Brazilian people and help calm the turbulent political situation in the country at that time. What better way to achieve this end than by knobbling the goalkeeper of England, the world champions?

Who knows? Who can ever say? But all these years on, it still seems that there was dirty work at the crossroads.

---

WE had a strong dose of imbecility after Manchester United goalkeeper Roy Carroll had clawed that ball back from well over his goal line against Tottenham and got away with it. Pundits pontificated: Carroll was a cheat; Carroll should have confessed as any decent Briton should (Carroll is Irish? OK, we know what the pundits more or less mean – cheating is for the despised foreigner.)

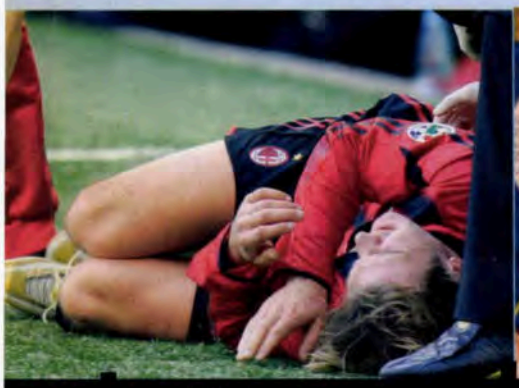
In truth, Carroll pulled the ball back to try to atone for the ineptitude of his appalling blunder in failing to catch Pedro Mendes' long lob in the first place. No doubt he had visions in his mind of Alex Ferguson's hairdryer treatment, which he would surely have incurred had he in fact owned up to what he had done. If, indeed, he even knew what he had done.

Whatever, we could surely have done without the comments of FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who added his Euro-worth to the debate by condemning the wretched linesman, Rob Lewis, even though Lewis had been officially exonerated, having been level with the play when Mendes executed his lob.

The Portuguese midfielder may have had a point when he regretted that Lewis had run towards the scene, down his line, with his head down. But Blatter might remember the old Roman saying: *de minimis non curat lex* – the law takes no account of trifles.

Over the line...but Roy Carroll got away with his blunder at Old Trafford

Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com



● 30/01/05

Andrii agony...an injury scare for Milan as Shevchenko damages an ankle against Bologna

● 31/01/05

Signing on...another club for Nicolas Anelka, who checks in at Fenerbahce following his £5million move from Manchester City

● 31/01/05

Sacked...Victor Fernandez leaves European champions FC Porto after a run of poor results

## International round-up

# Greece back in the hunt

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS Greece revived their fading hopes of qualification for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany with a 2-1 victory over Denmark in Piraeus.

Set-piece goals from Theo Zagorakis – his first in 101 internationals – and Angelos Basinas were enough to take the Greeks into second place behind Ukraine in Group 2.

Defeat in their opening game against Albania, plus draws with Ukraine and Turkey, had dented Greece's chances.

Ukraine beat Albania 2-0 away despite the absence of injured striker Andrii Shevchenko to extend their lead in the group.

Spain, who had a jittery start to their World Cup campaign, beat San Marino 5-0 to go up to second in Group 7. Ivan De la Pena, David Villa and Antonio Guayre all made their debuts.

Japan beat North Korea 2-1, South Korea beat Kuwait 2-0 and Saudi Arabia drew 1-1 with Uzbekistan as the final phase of Asia's World Cup qualifiers got under way.

North Korea, playing in their first World Cup qualifying campaign since 1994, gave the Japanese a run for their money in Saitama and only succumbed after an injury-time winner from Masashi Oguro. Nam Song-chol's 61st-minute shot had cancelled out Mitsuo Ogasawara's early opener for Japan. The match was played amid tight security – 3,500 police and security officials – because of fears that bitter political divisions between the countries could spill over into violence. But the crowd of 59,000 respectfully applauded the North Korean national anthem before the match.

The United States and Mexico both won away in the first round of CONCACAF's final World Cup qualifying phase. Midfielder Jaime Lozano scored twice in the first nine minutes as Mexico won 2-1 on Costa Rica's artificial pitch in San Jose, while the US beat Trinidad & Tobago by the same score in Port-of-Spain, thanks to goals from Eddie Johnson and Eddie Lewis.

Morocco stormed to the top of their World Cup group after crushing Kenya 5-1 in Rabat. Sochaux's Jaouad Zairi scored a hat-trick.

Elsewhere, anti-racism was a major theme of a night of friendlies. Holland, Portugal and Russia all wore special black-and-white kits as part of UEFA's long-running campaign, while other teams wore anti-racism logos on their shirts.

England and Holland played out a goalless draw at Villa Park, with Sven Goran Eriksson's tactics coming in for strong criticism. Stewart Downing and Andy Johnson made their debuts as late substitutes in what was an unfamiliar England formation.

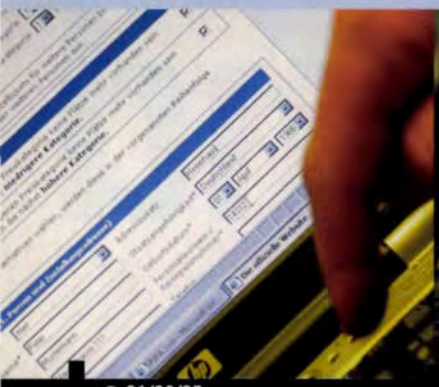
Portugal were beaten 1-0 by the Republic of Ireland, for whom Damien Duff made his 50th appearance, while Italy were comfortable 2-0 winners over Russia thanks to goals from substitutes Alberto Gilardino and Simone Barone.

World Cup hosts Germany twice went ahead against Argentina in Dusseldorf, but Hernan Crespo pegged them back each time to earn his side a 2-2 draw. France again failed to win under new coach Raymond Domenech, drawing 1-1 with Sweden in Paris.

In other friendlies, Belgium went down 4-0 to Egypt in Cairo, Israel came back three times to draw 3-3 with Croatia in Jerusalem and South Africa and Australia drew 1-1 in Durban.

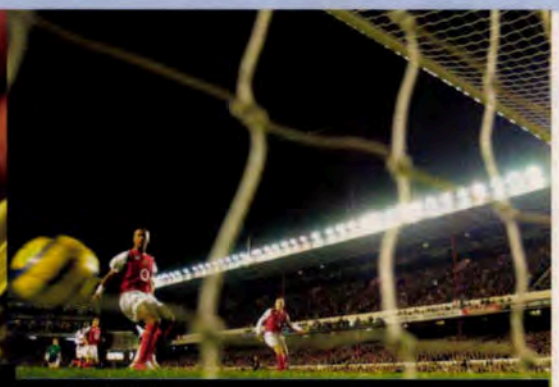
In Creteil, near Paris, a late Geremi goal gave Cameroon a 1-0 victory over Senegal, while Brazil hit seven past Hong Kong.

Debut strike...Zagorakis's goal against Denmark in Athens was his first in 101 games for Greece



● 01/02/05

Online and up for grabs...2006 World Cup tickets go on sale over the internet



● 01/02/05

Humbled at home...Arsenal's title hopes are ended by a 4-2 defeat at Highbury by Manchester United

## GOOD MONTH FOR...

Spain debut...Ivan De la Pena

Alex Ferguson...After the Battle of the Buffet at Old Trafford, the United manager got one over his old adversary Arsene Wenger with a thrilling 4-2 victory in the League return at Highbury. Revenge, unlike pizza, is a dish best served cold.

German Hornos...the Uruguay and Valladolid striker, who was seriously injured in a Christmas Day car crash, is making an excellent recovery and could play again, his doctor revealed.

Tronvik...the Norwegian Fifth Division side signed up former Moss striker Bard Erik Olsen. The transfer fee? A free pizza every week.

Ivan De la Pena...who made his international debut for Spain against San Marino, a decade after he first emerged as a potential star for Barcelona.

## BAD MONTH FOR...

Christophe Dugarry...the French World Cup-winner announced his retirement after failing to find a new club in the January transfer window.

Beate Uhse...Europe's largest chain of sex shops failed with its offer to sponsor financially-troubled Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund. "We won't do it," a club spokesman said.

The Beano...the children's comic was forced to pulp an entire issue containing a cartoon strip featuring a footballer called Henry Thierry, for fear of upsetting a certain Arsenal player.

Carlos Tevez...the Argentinian starlet's debut for Corinthians was delayed after he suffered a leg wound. Officially, it was caused by an insect bite that became infected. Unofficially, the Brazilian media reported that it was the result of repeated kicking by his new team-mates during training.

Not in the mood...Dortmund turned down sex shop sponsorship

# Notes & quotes

"I've done journalists a huge favour. So in return I expect at least a bunch of roses."
Juventus boss Fabio Capello jokes about the press furore sparked by his decision to keep Alex Del Piero on the bench.

"Pekerman has his players and his ideas and he's made it clear to me I'm not part of them."
Juan Sebastian Veron (right) in pessimistic mood about playing for Argentina under the current coach.

"You are the only technical boss of the team. I will personally ensure that your hands are not tied in doing your job."
Cameroon's Sports Minister Philippe Mbarga Mboa to new Indomitable Lions coach Artur Jorge. FIFA will be pleased.

"I'm a worker. I live by my bite and my aggression."
New Real Madrid signing Thomas Gravesen counters suggestions he is not a worthy member of the team.

"I had offers to go elsewhere but never seriously considered them. Milan gives me everything I need: ambition, results, enjoyment."
One-club man Paolo Maldini 20 years after making his Serie A debut.

"We have to make sure that the campaign is conducted in the right manner and not done just for PR like some of the sports companies seem to be doing at the moment."
Gary Neville warns Nike against cashing in on the FA's anti-racism initiatives

# Naming and

A refereeing scandal has rocked the 2006 World Cup hosts

**KEIR RADNEDGE in Frankfurt**

MONDAY, JANUARY 24 was one of the most embarrassing days in the history of German football. Just hours after FIFA and the German organising committee had unveiled details about the sale of tickets for next year's World Cup finals at a major press conference just outside Frankfurt, the German federation (DFB) held an emergency meeting in the city to address the crisis caused by a refereeing scandal in the domestic game.

Three days before, in Berlin, Robert Hoyzer, a 25-year-old Second Division referee, handed in his resignation to the federation. Hoyzer had been reported by fellow referees Lutz Michael Frohlich, Manuel Grafe, Olaf Blumenstein and Felix Zwayer the previous Wednesday for allegedly fixing his matches to suit bets laid on the results.

He had been summoned to a disciplinary hearing with commission president Horst Hilpert on the Friday, at which he was virtually forced to quit. Initially, DFB officials thought he had been betting himself. The truth appears to be far worse – Hoyzer was being manipulated, or influenced, by an illegal Croat betting mafia.

What erupted threatens to be the greatest scandal in the 40-plus-year history of the unified Bundesliga. Yet it is not, sadly, an isolated case. European football has been targeted increasingly by betting rings over the past four years – flourishing partly thanks to the almost uncontrollable internet gambling explosion.

Match-fixing inquiries have been rumbling on over the past year in both the Czech Republic and Portugal (where senior federation

You're joking, ref...Hamburg players remonstrate with Hoyzer after his dismissal of Emile Mpenza during the controversial Cup tie against Paderborn

# shaming

officials and FC Porto president Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa are among those being questioned under caution). Last autumn, there was a suspect surge in betting ahead of the UEFA Cup tie between Panionios of Greece and Georgia's Dinamo Tbilisi, Panionios winning 5-2. In Belgium one man has been arrested and others are being questioned over the outcome of a League match between Charleroi and Antwerp. Eight years ago English football was hit by a string of abandonments enforced by floodlight failures engineered in pursuit of an Asian betting scam.

An inquiry had already been launched within Germany after a betting rush on a lower division game in December in which Aue beat RW Oberhausen with an own goal and a penalty. Although only one of Hoyzer's games was immediately picked out as suspicious, a further dozen games are now under investigation as well as around 30 players and officials and six clubs – Second Division Dynamo Dresden, Energie Cottbus and Ahlen, plus Chemnitz, Offenbach and Paderborn of the regional Third Division.

Every referee in German football has now been tainted by the alleged match-fixing actions of one man. "What price did you get for that?" quickly became a popular chant of abuse at referees for decisions fans did not like.

The DFB was thrown into anger, fury and confusion. Or rather, further confusion. It has been struggling with a welter of long-term internal political problems and a refereeing scandal was the last issue it needed. But it could not ignore this and decided to hold that emergency meeting in Frankfurt.

The danger, of course, is that the credibility of German football will be seriously undermined ahead of the World Cup.

**Rising star Hoyzer**

Berliner Hoyzer was the rising star of German refereeing. He had not yet reached the Bundesliga but was regularly assigned matches in the German Cup and the Second Division. It was a Cup first round tie between Hamburg and minnows Paderborn on August 21 last year that proved his downfall.

Hamburg were 2-0 ahead in the first half through goals from Christian Rahn and Emile Mpenza when Hoyzer awarded Paderborn a controversial penalty, which Guido Spork converted. Mpenza lost his temper and Hoyzer sent him off.

At the interval, Paderborn's players were amazed when Hoyzer looked in on their dressing-room and said: "Keep on playing like that and you'll have no problems."

He was as good as his word. Rene Muller and Daniel Cartus scored twice more for Paderborn, who sealed victory with another contentious Spork penalty shortly before the end.

It was the shock of the round and, since Hamburg were bottom of the Bundesliga at that time, the Cup exit proved decisive in the subsequent sacking of coach Klaus Toppmoller.

A furious Toppmoller now says: "I sensed at the time that no matter what we did or how we played this was a game we were never going to win. Now I know why. The truth is that referee cost me my job. Many more matches like that will be the death of football." The coach and Hamburg are still considering whether they can sue Hoyzer for damages through the courts.

Worse was to come for Toppmoller when Hoyzer, having turned state's evidence, 'fingered' other referees, including Bundesliga official Jurgen Jansen. As soon as Jansen's name was mentioned, Toppmoller opened up again, recalling his outstanding stint at Bayer Leverkusen and, more particularly, a 2-2 draw with St Pauli in the spring of 2002. Jansen had awarded St Pauli a controversial last-minute penalty that denied Leverkusen victory. Toppmoller now says: "The ball hit our defender full in the face and the referee was only five metres away. But Jansen awarded a penalty for hands. I want the federation to look into that game."

Later that spring Leverkusen finished just one point behind Borussia Dortmund in the title race. Eleven days later they lost 2-1 to Real Madrid in the Champions League Final at Hampden Park, Glasgow. Toppmoller says: "Just think what psychological state we might have been in for that Final if we had gone into it as newly-crowned German champions."

Another of Jansen's games – Kaiserslautern's 3-0 defeat of Freiburg last November – is also under investigation.

Furious...Toppmoller

**Naive and ill-advised**

As more revelations tumbled out into the public domain so DFB joint president Theo Zwanziger and spokesman Harald Stenger were shown to be extraordinarily naive and ill-advised to have said, initially, that: "This is about just one referee and one game."

No one now dare say how many games may become caught up in the fall-out or how many referees. Hoyzer has implicated Jansen, former FIFA referee Wieland Ziller and two other lower division officials. The suggestion that eastern European betting rings have been regularly targeting German League and Cup matches cannot be ruled out.

Hoyzer, described by one colleague as "an arrogant loner", started refereeing at junior level at 15 and was promoted to regional level at 18. By 22 he was an assistant in the Second Division and a year later, at 23, became the youngest referee in German professional football.

## 'I sensed that no matter how we played we were never going to win'

*Klaus Toppmoller on his suspicions about the game between his former team Hamburg and Paderborn*

His registration with the League was through Hertha Berlin, to whom he handed his resignation at the same time as the federation. Registration through clubs is standard practice for referees in Germany, though it may be regarded elsewhere as odd at a time when, more than ever before, officials are expected not only to be impartial but to be seen to be.

While Hoyzer pursued his refereeing career he was also studying construction engineering and spent his spare time listening to jazz in Berlin's Cafe King. Acquaintances remembered him as having an eye for the girls and for being generous when it came to his round.

His downfall was prompted by arrogance. He over-reached himself and tried to persuade fellow referee Zwayer to follow his example and "make some easy money" by bending a Second Division match between RW Essen and Koln. At least, this is how Zwayer, who has denied fixing a match himself, tells it.

Over the "weekend of shame" after Hoyzer's initial admission

Meeting place...Berlin's Cafe King, a regular haunt of Hoyzer and where members of an alleged betting ring were arrested

officials, media and fans quickly recalled at least nine other controversial games among the 27 in the Second Division, northern region and DFB Cup that he controlled between August 2003 and December 2004.

An immediate question was why it took five months for the scandal to be exposed when serious questions about Hoyzer's refereeing had been raised immediately after the Hamburg-Paderborn game. The betting guardians at Oddset had reported an unusually high level of investment in the game, and Hoyzer's decisions had been so remarkable that former World Cup official Volker Roth, head of the referees commission, had been forced to come publicly to his defence, pointing out that "referees are only human and award only what they can see". Hilariously, with hindsight, Hoyzer's 'mistakes' were later edited into a training video for referees.

Crisis...Mayer-Vorfelder

By then he had already cashed in to the tune of £30,000 plus a plasma-screen television.

The Berlin state prosecutor's office stepped in quickly because this was no longer a mere sports matter, but criminal fraud. Indeed, Hoyzer had stepped outside the DFB's own jurisdiction by virtue of his resignation as a referee.

Within days, some 150 officers launched dawn raids on 32 homes and offices in 10 regions, bringing in a further 25 players and officials for questioning. A raid on the Cafe King netted the arrests of four Croats, alleged to have run a betting ring. Three Hertha players threatened to sue for libel after being named by a magazine as having taken money, but Paderborn captain Thijs Waterrink did admit having accepted £7,000 before the Hamburg tie. Elsewhere, Dresden keeper Ignjac Kresic reported a £10,000 match-bending offer "from someone I'd never met before" ahead of his team's game against Preussen Munster last season.

The scale of the affair was such that it threatened to eclipse Germany's previous biggest match-fixing scandal in 1971. That had come to light when Horst Gregorio Canellas, president of just-relegated Kickers Offenbach, used his birthday party to play to his shocked guests tape-recorded evidence of match-rigging. A variety of life, long and short-term suspensions, relegation orders and fines were imposed on 53 players, two managers and two officials, plus Offenbach and Arminia Bielefeld.

In the current crisis, critics have blamed the DFB's internal problems for creating a power vacuum in which corruption could flourish lower down the chain. Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, DFB president since April 2001, could not have been more highly regarded when Germany won hosting rights to the 2006 World Cup. But critics back home accused him of spending more time polishing his ego in the rarefied atmosphere of the FIFA executive than in addressing domestic problems.

Germany's first round exit from the Euro 2004 finals brought the crisis to a head. Mayer-Vorfelder was attacked for the alacrity with which he accepted the honourable resignation of national coach Rudi Voller. The truth is he saw Voller's departure as his own best form of defence.

It barely worked. The DFB's annual meeting voted in finance boss Theo Zwanziger as joint president. Zwanziger has the power while 'MV' has barely saved face while shunted into the role of German football's foreign minister.

However, Zwanziger is now the man who must sort out the mess, and he did not make a good start. As national coach Jurgen Klinsmann said: "The damage to the reputation and credibility of German football has been immense. It will take years to put this behind us."

## 'It will take years to put the damage behind us'

*National team coach Jurgen Klinsmann*

### HOYZER'S SCHEDULE OF SHAME

**2003**

**August 17:** St Pauli and Dresden drew 2-2 in the regional league with the former East German champions snatching a draw after being awarded a controversial late penalty.

**2004**

**May 22:** Paderborn beat Chemnitz 4-0 in the regional league after being awarded two penalties in quick succession when holding on to a shaky 1-0 lead.

**June 5:** Hoyzer disallowed two St Pauli goals in a 3-2 regional league defeat at Eintracht Braunschweig. St Pauli's assistant coach Holger Stanislawski said at the time: "Even the Eintracht players were amazed they got away with them both."

**August 14:** St Pauli were victims again in the regional league, this time in a 3-2 defeat by Osnabruck, who won with a contentious late penalty awarded for a foul by Marinko Miletic, who had actually played the ball. Miletic, having already been booked once, was sent off.

**August 21:** The now-notorious first round Cup tie when Bundesliga side Hamburg were beaten 4-2 by regional league Paderborn, two of whose goals came from contentious penalties.

**September 21:** Nurnberg went down to a shock 3-2 extra-time home defeat in the Cup by LR Ahlen. The minnows benefited from Hoyzer ignoring a clear foul by Paulinho in the build-up to their second goal.

**September 26:** Furth were beaten 1-0 by Duisburg in a Second Division game, the goal allowed to stand despite the ball having been punched into the net. Earlier in the match Duisburg keeper Georg Koch had been allowed to stay on the pitch despite punching and knocking down Furth forward Uwe Rosler.

**October 22:** Ahlen profited again to beat Burghausen 1-0 in the Second Division with a goal from a disputed penalty. It had been awarded against Dusan Trifunovic, who had fallen on the ball after being tripped. When he protested, Hoyzer sent him off.

**November 28:** Unterhaching lost 3-1 at home to Saarbrucken in the Second Division after missing a generous penalty award that would have pulled them level at 2-2.

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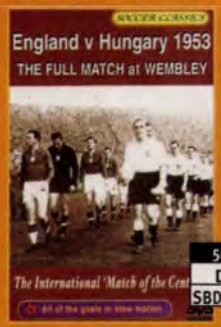


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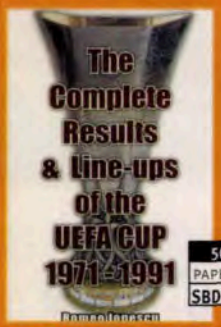


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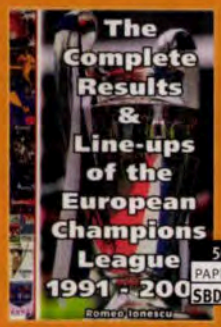


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# The Madrigal miracle

Villarreal are living proof that small can be beautiful in La Liga

**SID LOWE**
**in Madrid**

WHEN FERNANDO ROIG bought a controlling share in Villarreal back in May 1997, people thought he was going slightly mad. When he announced that he was going to make the club real First Division challengers, they thought he had completely lost it.

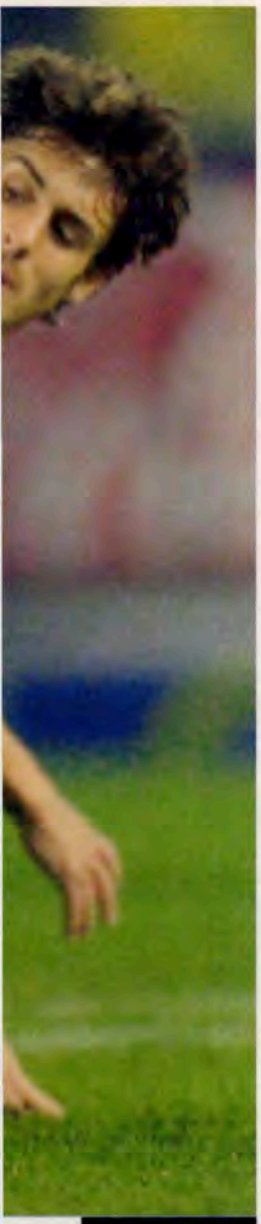
Villarreal were struggling at the foot of the Second Division, had three members of staff, a stadium – El Madrigal – that held just 3,500 fans, and virtually no history. They had never been in the top division and were completely overshadowed by nearby clubs Valencia, Levante, Hercules, Elche, even Castellon. Yet Roig reckoned they could become one of Spain's biggest clubs…

Well, last season Villarreal reached the UEFA Cup semi-finals and now they are Spain's most in-form team, having won five out of five League games to early February, with Valencia and Barcelona among their scalps. That run put them a single point from the Champions League places.

Not bad for a team that plays in a town of 40,000 inhabitants that's not even on most maps, doesn't get a single mention in the *Rough Guide* and boasts just one hotel.

The turnaround has been dramatic and clearly Roig knew what he was doing; perhaps it ran in the family, one of the most powerful in the region thanks to their huge Pamesa ceramics empire and one with a serious interest in sport.

Roig's brother Paco had been a major shareholder and former (if extremely unpopular) president of Valencia, while his other brother



Winning mentality... Marcos Senna (in yellow) battles Pablo Aimar of Valencia during Villarreal's 3-1 win in January

Juan owned the supermarket chain Mercadona and the Valencia-based Pamesa basketball club. Pamesa were the model for Villarreal, the aim being to build a competitive team from scratch.

### Emphasis on youth

There was, however, one big difference, says Fernando Roig. "Youth academies don't work in basketball because Spanish kids simply aren't good enough. In football, they are." (And, he might have added, Pamesa had a city like Valencia to tap into for support; Villarreal enjoy no such luxury.)

Villarreal set about building a youth structure, what Francisco Garcia, 'Paquito', describes as "the pyramid". Paquito, a former Valencia player who oversees almost everything at the club, as well as being the man who took them to the First Division for the first time in 1999 and stepped in after coach Benito Floro walked last season, insists that "looking after the kids is the most important job here. The basis of football starts at the bottom, with a huge, wide base, and ends at the summit, which is the first team."

The mentality throughout is the same: at the base Villarreal teach the same football played by the first team. "I don't want to be all Mother Superior about it," Paquito says, "but we want our players to treat the ball well."

Villarreal's real take-off came five years ago when Roig bought 70,000 square metres of an old orange grove from the council and invested £29million to turn it into an academy with a residency for young players. Villarreal have 700 kids in their academy and 25 internationals at all levels. As the man in charge of the academy, Juan Carlos Garrido, points out: "At Under-16 level, we have as many internationals as Barcelona or Real Madrid."

Within three years, Roig wants eight academy players in the first team and some are already filtering through. But the process necessarily is slow and the youth set-up, impressive though it is, is not the key to the success of Villarreal's first team. It is more that the academy represents a club ideology that is bearing fruit in playing and organisational terms.

Yet Villarreal have been pragmatic, too. "When we first went up to the First Division, we weren't really ready for it, but going back down really opened our eyes," says Paquito. "We realised that we had to invest from the bottom and the top, and meet in the middle." Villarreal did just that. For all the romanticism, money is at the heart of the Madrigal miracle.

Roig increased the stadium's capacity to 23,000 (although they still struggle to fill it). And, initially supported by Valencia, who loaned them a number of players, including current captain David Albelda and Miguel Angel Angulo, they set about building a competitive squad.

Fortunately, backed by the Roig family empire and Fernando's willingness to invest, Villarreal were able to offer far higher wages and greater economic security than a club in their position would normally expect. They therefore have impressive pulling power. As Argentinian defender Rodolfo Arruabarrena says: "We're lucky; we always get paid on time." It sounds mundane, cold, but it is an important factor; too many players in Spain simply cannot say the same.

Villarreal have been hugely successful in the transfer market. In one particular transfer market, in fact: Latin America and, especially, Argentina. Club delegate Jose Manuel Llaneza was the man who set the ball rolling following a trip to Argentina in 1998. He signed Walter Gaitan and since then Villarreal have brought in 13 Argentinians.

They had more players in Argentina's last national squad than any other club and currently have six in their squad, plus Uruguayan Diego Forlan, who made his name in Argentina, and Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini, who arrived at Villarreal last summer after spells at River Plate and San Lorenzo. Small wonder Villarreal have become many Argentinians' favourite Spanish club.

There have been mistakes – Martin Palermo utterly failed to live up to a big reputation – but the policy has paid huge dividends. "Why do we sign Argentinians?" asks Roig. "Because we can. We couldn't sign the Spain centre-forward but we can sign the Argentinian one. They are cheaper." And, adds Llaneza, "Argentinians are born winners."

### South Americans settle

That is especially the case in so comforting an environment, without the pressure of the big clubs; one in which Latin Americans, some of whom have struggled at previous clubs in Europe or would have been concerned about settling had they gone elsewhere, feel completely at home. Every Friday after training the entire squad gather for an Argentinian-style barbecue and a spot of Spanish wine.

Should anyone doubt the benefits, they need only look at the way Villarreal are playing – and who's making them tick. The least-booked side in Spain, Villarreal play the best, most intricate football in the League, a game of touch and slick movement and interchange; a game inspired by Juan Roman Riquelme, the slow-motion playmaker who never made it at Barcelona but is now the League's top assist provider, a simply sensational footballer who at last feels at home.

And then, of course, there's the other man who has really benefited, who exemplifies Villarreal's ability to get the best out of their players, the man scoring all the goals – 14 in total, just two behind League top scorer Samuel Eto'o. That man is Diego Forlan. Yes, *the* Diego Forlan.

**Singing the Blues...Pandiani at Birmingham**

● **"Nobody trains properly. Some people get into the team without even running. [Coach Javier] Irureta was too soft and I'm leaving the club hurt and angry. I wanted to go to Fiorentina but Deportivo – possibly on purpose – sent the fax too late. And now I have ended up at Birmingham, which is precisely where I didn't want to be."**

***Walter Pandiani hardly endears himself to his old club (where he'll have to return when his loan spell is over) or his new one.***

## 'We have as many Under-16 internationals as Barca or Real'

*Villarreal's academy chief Juan Carlos Garrido*

# Double trouble

There's everything to play for in the title race as Juventus and Milan both suffer setbacks

**PADDY AGNEW in Rome**

JUVENTUS AND MILAN, the two clear front-runners in the championship race, both suffered back-to-back defeats in recent weeks, suggesting that they may remain locked together right through to the final weekend at the end of May.

First, champions Milan lost two successive games, to Livorno and Bologna, at the end of January to drop eight points behind Juventus, prompting a number of commentators to suggest that the championship contest was already over. No sooner had those words been uttered than Juventus lost twice in the space of four days – to Sampdoria and Palermo – in the first week of February to allow Milan to close within two points.

The Juventus setback was the more surprising of the two quite simply because when they are out in front in Serie A, they lose consecutive games with about the same frequency as they experience a full eclipse of the sun up at the Stadio delle Alpi.

The double defeat was at least partially linked to the less than overwhelming form of captain and long-time talisman Alessandro Del Piero. After an autumn during which he was consistently substituted, Del Piero found himself dropped by coach Fabio Capello in January. Almost as soon as Frenchman David Trezeguet returned from a shoulder injury in January, it became clear that Capello's ideal front pairing in his habitual 4-4-2 line-up was Trezeguet and Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Inevitably, the sight of Del Piero on the bench did not go unobserved, particularly by the Juve fans. Towards the end of the club's 2-0 home win against Brescia on January 23, after Capello had ignored Del Piero to bring on Frenchman Olivier Kapo for his third change, the fans shouted abuse at the coach by way of protest.

That had been the second successive match that Del Piero had watched from the bench, having also sat out Juve's 1-1 draw with Cagliari a week earlier. All of a sudden, Del Piero's future was brought into question, by the sports media at least.

Juventus, to be fair, did nothing to dampen the speculation, with director Antonio Giraudo saying that "at Juventus, you cannot live

Which way?...Juve coach Capello gives directions to Del Piero, whose future at the club is uncertain

on your past", while president Roberto Bettega admitted that Del Piero had become "a little problem". Former Juventus star Gianluca Vialli said it was now clear Del Piero would not be finishing his career at Juventus and advised him to move to either Spain or England.

Bearing in mind the need to rotate players and perhaps moved by the ongoing polemic about his captain, Capello opted to start the home game against Sampdoria with Del Piero and Trezeguet, leaving Ibrahimovic on the bench. By half-time, Juventus were trailing 1-0, and even though the goal had come from Sampdoria's only serious shot on the goal, Capello clearly had to ring the changes. This he did, immediately, bringing on Ibrahimovic for Del Piero.

Right from the start of the second half Juventus looked a different side, with the Swede going close to scoring three times as well as setting up chances for Trezeguet. In the end, however, Samp held on to their lead largely thanks to keeper Francesco Antonioli, who gave one of his best displays in years.

Not surprisingly, when Juventus lined up against Palermo in Sicily three nights later Del Piero was back on the bench. If Sampdoria had made the most of minimal attacking chances, Palermo, buoyed by the electric atmosphere in the ground, took the game to the leaders from the kick-off, scoring through Franco Brienza after just 12 minutes and then continuing to look for a second goal right to the final whistle. With Juventus under the cosh, Capello again ignored Del Piero, turning to Uruguayan Marcelo Zalayeta as a substitute in attack.

The fact Del Piero had again been left on the bench heightened speculation about his future, and this increased further when Italy coach Marcello Lippi (Del Piero's former boss at Juve) left him out of the squad for the friendly against Russia in Cagliari (a 2-0 win).

### Del Piero at the crossroads

At 30 years of age, Del Piero may have come to a crossroads in his career. What is certain, and to some extent Euro 2004 underlined the point, is that the forward more and more looks like an ex-player, someone who was cruelly deprived of his best form by that November 1998 knee injury and who has never since regained his devastating pre-injury form.

No dispassionate, neutral observer could argue with Capello's decision to prefer Trezeguet and Ibrahimovic to Del Piero in his current form.

Throughout this period, though, Del Piero has shown exemplary professionalism, refusing to complain and apparently accepting his fate with total equanimity. That behaviour, in itself, would suggest that he believes he can still play his way back into the side and that he still has a future at Juventus. Time will tell.

Milan's two defeats were in some ways less traumatic if only because of the circumstances. Livorno, like Palermo against Juventus, were greatly buoyed by the passionate home following for the first visit of Milan in 55 years. The team played their butts off in a gutsy encounter, winning 1-0 in a veritable downpour. As for Bologna, under the canny guidance of 67-year-old Carlo Mazzone, they played it tight and got it right to score with one of their few attacks on goal.

Significantly, though, one week later Milan were struggling at 1-0 down at home to Lazio and appeared to be going nowhere until Andrii Shevchenko was hastily resummoned for duty, notwithstanding a nasty muscle injury picked up against Bologna.

With Sheva back in the team, Milan, as so often this season, looked a different proposition and he launched a splendid fightback with a spectacular long-range free-kick goal. In the end, Milan rode their luck to score an injury-time winner through Argentinian Hernan Crespo but the message was there for all to see: without Shevchenko, Milan will struggle.

### Zoff's coaching return

At the other end of the table, Serie A witnessed the eighth sacking of the season when Fiorentina's Sergio Buso (who himself had replaced Emiliano Mondonico last October) got the drop after a 2-1 home loss to Roma. Buso was replaced by Dino Zoff, Italy's 1982 World Cup-winning captain, who was accepting his first coaching position since being sacked by Lazio in September 2001.

After three successive defeats by Cagliari, Palermo and Sampdoria, Zoff must have been wondering about the wisdom of his move. Worse still was the nature of the third of those defeats, 3-0 to Sampdoria, in which Fiorentina had two players sent off in the first 10 minutes – new Bulgarian signing Valeri Bojinov and Daniele Delli Carri.

Bojinov, who arrived for £9million from Lecce, was by far the biggest signing of the January transfer window (see panel). Zoff also has a number of other new boys at his disposal – Atalanta striker Giampaolo Pazzini, Sampdoria midfielder Marco Donadel and Brescia defender Dario Dainelli – and at least has some time to right the listing Fiorentina ship.

One final thought concerns that transfer market. In offloading Marco Delvecchio to Brescia, Egyptian Ahmed 'Mido' Hossam (Tottenham), defender Luigi Sartor (Genoa), midfielder Giacomo D'Agostino (Messina) and Frenchman Vincent Candela (Bolton), Roma managed to save £4m on their wage costs at one fell swoop. That is a welcome boost to them as the bitter winds of austerity continue to blow through all but the very highest levels of Italian football.

**Brescia-bound...Delvecchio has left Roma**

**● After Fiorentina's signing of Valeri Bojinov from Lecce, the most interesting January transfers involving Italian clubs were: Portuguese defender Abel Xavier (Hannover to Roma), midfielder Demetrio Albertini (Atalanta to Barcelona), Sampdoria striker Fabio Bazzani and Lazio striker Simone Inzaghi (straight swap), striker Marco Delvecchio (Roma to Brescia), Juve defenders Nicola Legrottaglie and Igor Tudor (to Bologna and Siena respectively) and, of course, Chelsea's suspended Romanian striker Adrian Mutu (to Juventus).**

## 'The message was there for all to see: without Shevchenko, Milan will struggle'

# Talent on tap

South American Under-20 teams have the technique and now the physique to beat all-comers

**TIM VICKERY in Armenia, Colombia**

FROM UNDER-17 to senior level, South America currently holds all the world titles. And while the cups belong to Brazil and Argentina – Under-17, Under-20 and senior World Cup to the former, Olympic gold, effectively Under-23, to the latter – the continent's presence on the podium is not limited to the big two. Paraguay are Olympic silver medallists, and Colombia reached the semi-finals at the last Under-17 and Under-20 World Championships.

Judging by Colombia's displays when winning the recent South American Under-20 Championship as hosts, the team will be among the favourites to also win this summer's World Youth Cup, in Holland.

Some of South America's international success can clearly be put down to natural talent. But that is only part of the story. Indeed, focusing only on natural talent is to ignore some of the key ingredients in the mix. Ever since Uruguay's triumph at the 1924 Olympics, South American national football teams have probably been a more important symbol of their countries than anywhere else in the world. Argentina's triumph in the first World Youth Cup in 1979, for example, was an event of considerable cultural and political importance.

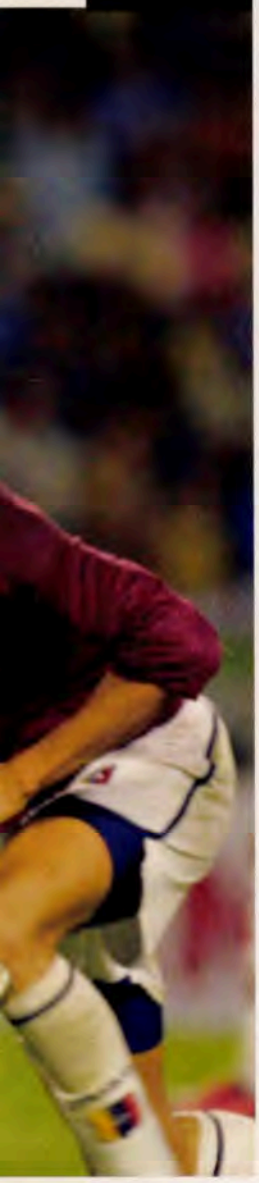
Success at Under-20 level can also do wonders for a coach's career. Colombia, current senior national team boss Reinaldo Rueda was appointed soon after taking the Under-20s to third place at the last World Youth Cup. Argentina are coached by Jose Pekerman,

who owes his prestige to the World Youth Cup triumphs of 1995, 1997 and 2001.

Pekerman's assistant was Hugo Tocalli. After spending three years in sole charge of the youth sides, Tocalli now relinquishes the post to team up once more with his former boss at senior level. He will meet up with lots of familiar faces.

"These past 10 years have really taught me a lot," says Tocalli. "It takes time before the plans that you implement start to produce results. We look to form an Under-17 side that will then go on to form the basis of the Under-20s. First, we carry out a series of trials for kids between 13 and 15, and we choose the ones with the best technique. We keep information on file on all of the kids; a social worker will assess the family situation, and the psychology department give us a behavioural profile, so that we know as much as we can about the young men under our command. [FA president] Julio Grondona and the executive committee have given full support to this work, and the fruits are to be found in the number of players who have made it all the way through to the senior side. It will be very satisfying for me to work with them again."

In Brazil, former left-back Branco has been co-ordinating the youth sides for the past two years. "It's a big responsibility," he says, "because in truth we're working for the senior side. We have to develop players and then hand them over good and ready to [senior team coach Carlos Alberto] Parreira. But in the short term our biggest concern is winning titles. I can't see any contradiction between the two objectives; in order to win titles you have to develop good players."



**Competitive spirit... Argentina's Hernan Pieroni battles to keep possession against Venezuela**

**Tight call...Chile (red) drew with Uruguay to qualify**

**● The most dramatic match of the Under-20 tournament took place on the penultimate day, with Chile facing Uruguay to decide who would take the last of the four qualifying places in this year's World Youth Cup in Holland.**

**Hosts Colombia finished top of the six-team final group to secure their place in the World finals, along with Brazil, second, and Argentina, third. Venezuela lost all their games, leaving Chile and Uruguay in a straight fight for fourth. A thrilling 2-2 draw meant that Chile made it through on goal difference.**

**Brazil and Argentina know they have some serious work to do ahead of the Holland finals. Argentina's strikers looked ordinary and the team lacked a midfielder who could pass over range. Brazil showed physical strength but a dearth of collective creativity.**

**Colombia, rich in attacking options, were the most impressive side, though they did have home advantage. Brazil coach Rene Weber was thinking of this, and of the pitches damaged by rain, when he said: "We'll wait until Holland to see who has the best team."**

### Only the best for Brazil

No expense is spared in pursuit of these aims. The structure behind the Under-20s leaves little or nothing to be desired by the senior side. Branco insists on the best possible medical staff and facilities, for example. In exchange, the players are expected to conduct themselves like professionals. "The players have to wear the official uniform; there are no mobiles at the meal table; punctuality has to be respected; no one starts eating until everyone is at the table," says Branco. "All this is part of the formation of the player."

The squad receive motivational lectures from the same specialist who works with the senior side, and Branco adds: "We're always talking to the players, trying to control their anxiety and make them aware of the importance of what they're doing, that good performances and titles will open the doors of the world to them."

Venezuela coach Nelson Carrero hinted that some of the Brazil team were too big to be less than 20 years of age. There have been cases of age-fiddling in the past, but Branco is adamant this is no longer a problem. Instead, he says the strength and size of Brazil's players is down to sophisticated physical preparation and the priorities of the selection process. "Physique is one of the things I emphasise with all of the coaches and doctors who are involved in our work," says Branco. "We want tall, strong players. If we can match the opposition in physical terms then our idea is that our technique will tip the balance."

There is no doubt that it is proving effective. Brazil have added new strings to their bow. The last World Youth Cup was basically won with headers from corners. The World Under-17 title was sealed with a scrambled goal from a free-kick. And few of Brazil's goals in the recent South American Under-20 event came from open play. "We've learnt how to win games on set-pieces," says Branco. "I think it's perfectly valid. After all, down the years we've lost plenty of games and titles that way."

### Creativity lacking

But perhaps some alarm bells should be ringing. Brazil have lost some of their creativity in the search for footballing Robocops. In Colombia, the hosts' coach, Eduardo Lara, confessed he sat up until 3.30am studying the trajectory of Brazil's free-kicks. The result of this research was that his players were correctly positioned in the area, Brazil had barely a chance and Colombia won by the only goal.

Brazil's emphasis on physical strength does no harm to the players' chances of a move to Europe. There were plenty of scouts in Colombia. Indeed, the Under-20 event offers a welcome break from the friction between European and South American football. There is no club versus country conflict. At this level everyone gets what they want; the South American national teams are preparing to win world titles, the European clubs can see a new generation of talent and the South American clubs can balance the books by making a sale. It is a rare moment of intercontinental footballing harmony.

● *See page 70 for Tim Vickery's selection of eyecatching new talent from the South American Under-20 Championship.*

## 'We have now learnt how to win games on set-pieces'

*Brazil youth team co-ordinator Branco*

# Still into Inter

The prolific Brazilian forward tells Dominique Antognoni he is staying in Milan to win

**So, Adriano, are you going to Real Madrid?**
No, not at all – I'm staying put at Inter, where it's all going very well for me.

**But you gave an interview recently in which you hinted at a move.**
When I re-read in the newspapers the things I'd said, I was amazed – I realised I'd given the impression my suitcases were already packed. All I meant to say was how grateful I was towards [Real president Florentino] Perez for taking an interest in me. I like Real very much – for a start, there's Ronaldo, who has been a great pal of mine and who more than anyone helped me to settle here in Milan. But I'm still keen on Inter.

**That's what Ronaldo once said.**
Yes, but he wanted a change, after so many years at Inter, and especially after two big injury layoffs. And Real had always been his big dream. But what would be my motivation to go there?

**Easy – Real are Real, and then there's Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo, Roberto Carlos, Michael Owen, David Beckham, Raul...**
And where could I fit in? Owen is already on the bench, as it is.

**There is always room for a winner.**
Well, I've nothing to say on that matter.

**Your Inter career more or less began with a friendly against Madrid, on August 14, 2001.**
I know, and I wasn't even supposed to be in the side. But there had been so many injuries, and [Inter's then coach Hector] Cuper took me along, even though I knew I was about to be loaned out. When I was sent on to the pitch, I knew I had just 10 minutes to let people see who I was and what I was capable of. [He hit a spectacular winner from a free-kick.]

**We hear stories you are bored of playing in a side who have no real prospect of becoming League champions.**
No, that's not true. I've been here one year [since returning to Inter from a loan spell at Parma], and we are in the last 16 of the Champions League. To me, it looks as though not even Real have a better chance of winning it. And let's be clear about something that's very important to me – my father died last summer, and I was badly affected by this. On my return to Milan, at the first training session, a huge banner had been put up by the fans, saying: "Adriano, your sadness is our sadness." I asked if I could take it home with me. That banner means more to me than any *scudetto* ever could.

**So you'll be staying?**
No doubt about it. For a long time, and I'll win here, I just know it.

Celebration time...Adriano takes the acclaim after scoring for Brazil against Bolivia in a World Cup qualifier

**You mentioned your friendship with Ronaldo, how did that develop?**
I found it incredible – every day I was having breakfast with the player I had admired for so long, since seeing him on the television, and who had been a role model for me. Then he helped me to find myself a great house – no easy thing in Milan, as there aren't that many available.

**What was the most important thing you learned from him?**
Above all, to be humble.

**It must be difficult sometimes to keep your feet on the ground, what with all the adoration, the money, and so on.**
The way I deal with it is to remind myself constantly where I have come from. It's also important to watch out for false friends, who will only want to know you for what they can get out of you. The people I remain closest to are my mother, Rosilda, my grandmother, Vanda, and my brother, Thiago, and if it doesn't sound too odd, God. Don't get me wrong, I'm no saint – I know how to enjoy myself – but I don't get carried away.

**Many Brazilian players experience homesickness when they come to Europe. Do you?**
Every so often, yes, but I've got my family here with me in Milan, so it passes quickly.

**Does Thiago like football?**
Not really. When I was six I thought only about football but my kid brother has always been mad about computers. Mind you, that's no bad thing from my mother's point of view – she won't have to have another son becoming a footballer. She's very proud and happy for me, but it's not been all that easy for her.

**And your grandmother?**
She's an expert on tactics.

**For so many of the very poor people of your home country you are an idol.**
Yes, I think so, especially for the youngsters.

**So how did you manage to go from poor township to being a superstar?**
The most important idea to keep before you is a sense of humility. I know I'm still young but I've already experienced some dreadful things, including hunger. Today, I'm proud to be a footballer, but many of my childhood friends took the wrong roads. I've been very lucky, with my football, but also with my family. When you get to a high point in your life, which is what I am experiencing now, you just have to work even harder. And when things go wrong, there's no point in crying, you just have to get back to work to sort it out. In life, it's vital

**Ready to battle…Adriano holds off Valencia's David Navarro during a Champions League group match**

never to give up, and whenever I read about or watch something I've done well – a goal of mine, for instance – I hope I'll always bear this in mind: the fact that I've had to work hard to get to this point, that it has never been easy. The minute you start to think you've got it all made, that's the point at which you're finished.

**How do you see the rest of the season developing for Inter?**
Well, I'd like to see us do better in the championship – I know we haven't lost yet but we're way back in third place behind Juventus and Milan because of the amazing amount of games we've drawn.

**Can you explain Inter's Italian League form?**
I'm not sure why it should be, but we seem to play very differently than in the Champions League. Maybe we lack concentration and tenacity in our League games. We always want to win right away, and that's not always possible.

**Do you like the way your coach, Roberto Mancini, approaches the game?**
Very much, because we play fast, we pass the ball around in midfield, and I have to create space up front and also go down the left side when needed.

**Do you prefer playing in the centre of attack or down the left side?**
I try to do all I can for the good of the team. I'm quite happy to drop deeper if that is what is needed. I've been in Italy three years and I've learned so much. There are still faults to iron out, but I'm always trying to improve, for example, with my right foot – after all, I am paid to use both of them! Also, the right-sided part of my game. For a left-footer like me, that's not so easy, but I'm working on it, and on my heading skills, trying to use my height and build to full effect.

**What's the best thing about your game?**
My physique. I'm pretty strong, even though that can pose problems, because I have to watch my weight. If I put on just one kilo, I can't run so well.

**How is it that you can hit penalties so hard?**
Well, I've been lucky in that I've always had a powerful shot, although my aim wasn't always so good. Now I just take my time, and I've become more accurate. At Flamengo I worked solely on penalty-taking.

**You played at Flamengo with Romario…**
Yes, it was great to watch him both in training and during matches. He did the most amazing things, which I've never seen done by anyone else. I can't understand how he never came to Italy.

**How did you get on with your coaches at Parma, Arrigo Sacchi and Cesare Prandelli?**
Sacchi practically ran the show there, deciding everything. He had his foibles, such as being strict about punctuality at training sessions. But his training really got you into shape. Aft every session he'd come to each of us and as questions, such as: "You were a bit off form today, is everything OK with you? What time did you get to bed last night?" Prandelli had a unique way of fixing in your mind the things you needed to know. He was calm, patient, passionate about the game.

**There are so many brilliant young Brazilian players about these days. Have you any advice for them?**
If I was in their position now I would certainly think about trying to get to Europe as early as possible. That's because Brazil today is not a place where you can get the best out of yourself; you need a calm, steady atmosphere. Without my coming to Italy and to Inter, who knows what might have happened to my career?

**Who was your earliest idol?**
Zico.

**Who is the best attacking player in the world today?**
Ronaldo.

**And the best tomorrow?**
Adriano, if God is on my side.

# 'I don't feel the pressure'

Keir Radnedge talks to Barcelona's coach about life in one of European football's most demanding jobs

**Which would you prefer to win – Spanish League or Champions League?**
A club as big as Barcelona which hasn't won anything significant for five or six years can't afford to be choosy. We'll be happy with whatever trophy comes our way. Having said that, winning your domestic championship is a product of all your good work over the length of a season. It proves that everything and everyone has been working well consistently. It's a great achievement. The Champions League, on the other hand, is full of lots of big clubs with a great fame and name. When you get to this stage, almost every tie is a top game which could be the Final. You can reach the semi-final or the Final and then lose because a shot hit a post and bounced out instead of going into the net. One incident. Defeat doesn't necessarily mean you performed badly. But if you finish fourth or fifth in the national championship you know you haven't done the job as well as you should. The Champions League is like a lottery. It's the cream. Winning it gives added value to your season but the main job in the Champions League is getting as far as you can.

**How are you approaching the Chelsea tie?**
I'm looking forward to it very much. Chelsea are having a great season and have put together some impressive results to dominate the Premiership.

**How do you feel about Arjen Robben missing the tie through injury?**
I'm sorry because no one wants to see another player injured and he's a fellow Dutchman! Anyway, my attitude has always been the same: I want to play against the strongest team our opponents can put out. First, it gives you even greater motivation – and then an even greater sense of achievement when you win. Also, when a top player is injured it can work against you. Your players say: "This guy is injured so that makes it easier." Only it doesn't because the guy who comes in has something to prove and plays the game of his life. I'd be very happy if Robben was fit to play against us.

**Do you know Jose Mourinho?**
No, I don't. He was at Barcelona before my time so my opinion is based on his results, which have been outstanding. He's been the most surprising coach in Europe over the last two or three years because his teams have won so often and so much. His results speak for themselves – and for him.

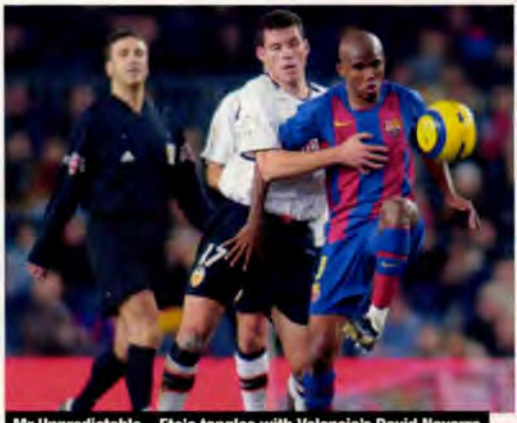
**You have an image abroad of being a man for only the big jobs – from Holland to Barcelona. Is that fair?**
No, I don't think so. First I was assistant to Guus Hiddink at the 1998 World Cup and then I was coach at Sparta [Rotterdam], which is not even one of the big clubs in Holland. In image terms I suppose those were not such high-profile jobs. But, to me, every job is a big job, it doesn't matter what level. You are always dealing with different players with different personalities, and the job demands as much involvement whether it's Sparta, Barcelona or a national team.

**Did you find a big difference between being a national coach and a club coach?**
The difference is that, as a national coach, you see your players only once a month in the middle of a season. But at a big tournament like a European Championship or World Cup you're all working together every day so it's just like a club. Of course, when you're playing in the qualifiers it's different. The first day you can't do too much so it's only light training, the second day you play the game and then the third day the players all fly off back to their clubs. That can be frustrating. But you know how it will be when you take the job. You've been there as a player so it shouldn't be a surprise. I've heard it said that if you lose you carry the weight of defeat for a month until the next game but, similarly, if you win you have that to carry you through.

**As a club coach, do you find the demands on your players of international friendlies a nuisance?**
What angers me most are not the matches themselves. There's no real difference between a friendly match and training, and players will always prefer to play. I did. But at Barcelona we have a lot of South Americans and when there's an international week they go to Hong Kong, Brazil or somewhere else in South America. They don't get back until Thursday evening and they're tired because of the time difference and we have only one training session on Friday – when everyone is still tired – before a big game on Saturday. Obviously, the more players you have from another continent the more damage it can do. We have tried to learn from last season when almost every week after an international we lost our next match. The only way to cope is by persuading your players to make even greater sacrifices on the pitch. In an international week we have 10 or 11 players away with their countries. The next weekend we probably play a club who have been without only two or three players. It doesn't affect them the same way.

**'The Champions League is like a lottery. The main aim is to get as far in the competition as you can'**

**So why sign so many South Americans?**
Let me explain the process. If I think the team need something extra I discuss it with Txiki Beguiristain, our technical director, and with vice-president Sandro Rosell and president Joan Laporta. Then they go to find the players who fulfil those criteria. Where they come from is immaterial. The priority is having the right players for the needs of the team. Anyway, when I came here we already had Ronaldinho, Rafael Marquez and Javier Saviola then. I didn't have any choice over the majority of Latin Americans who were here.


Mr Unpredictable...Eto'o tangles with Valencia's David Navarro

**Yet Barcelona have just signed an Argentinian striker, Maxi Lopez, from River Plate...**
Yes, but though he has played for Argentina at every level he is not playing for the senior national team right now. After Henrik Larsson was injured I knew we needed an extra striker because we have so many games. So the club started looking. Time was ticking away during the transfer window and we knew Maxi Lopez fulfilled the criteria and was available.

**Was it different in your day as a player at Milan in the late 1980s?**
Yes, for one thing foreigner restrictions meant clubs did not have anything like as many players going off with their countries. Also, in my case, Milan to Holland was only a two-hour flight. The problem now is the long-haul flights across big time zones.

**How do you cope with having a squad of superstar egos?**
Every player is different but whether someone is a 'star' or not is something the public creates, not the player. I can guarantee that every team is the same at whatever level: there are one or two players who are leaders and others who follow; one or two players who talk more than the others. I can guarantee you that wherever our players have come from they would look around the dressing-room and know that whatever success they achieved personally was dependent on the other guys.

Football is a team game. Of course, sometimes a training exercise suits some players more than others and then you have to consider individuals. But this is one reason why I don't like a big squad. If I had 30 players then, inevitably, I would be sending eight or nine to watch from the stands every week. As it is I have 19 plus a few from the youth team so everyone feels a part of what we are doing – especially since we had four bad injuries early in the season. I like players who are versatile and can play in two or three positions. Then they know that, if they are out of the team, they have a better chance of getting back in. My aim is always to create a team spirit so every player feels he is contributing to our success. Then everyone's happy.

**But isn't it difficult to bring in someone like Henrik Larsson, who was the top player in Scotland and tell him his role is to come into a game and change things?**
Yes, it takes a special sort of player and personality to manage that and he struggled at first to adjust. The irony is that, had he not been injured, he would probably have found himself playing more games than even he expected.

**Presumably, listening to your philosophy, you are not in favour of individual awards – like Andrii Shevchenko being voted European Footballer of the Year?**
No, I'm not. For example, Shevchenko is a great striker. You can see that from his record. But football is a team game, so how can you compare the value of a Shevchenko with a defender whose work is not so obvious but is equally important? I'm against these sort of awards. If we must have them then we should have comparative awards – for goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and strikers in their own right.

**Barca's Samuel Eto'o is African Footballer of the Year. How highly do you rate him?**
He's a very mature player considering his age. He works hard at his game but he also possesses an extra quality which means he can do things on the field that no one can predict. It's instinctive and effective because he also has the gifts of speed and skill and an eye for a space. It's like an inborn talent you can't work on or coach. He just 'knows' how to do the right thing at the right moment in a game. He has everything it takes to become the complete player.

**As for La Liga, are you worried about the way Real Madrid have been catching you up?**
Honestly, I don't feel under any pressure from Real Madrid at all. If you are working properly then the only pressure you should feel is the pressure you put on yourself. We don't look at what Real Madrid may be doing, all we concern ourselves with is winning as many games as we can. Then, at the end of the season, we will see.

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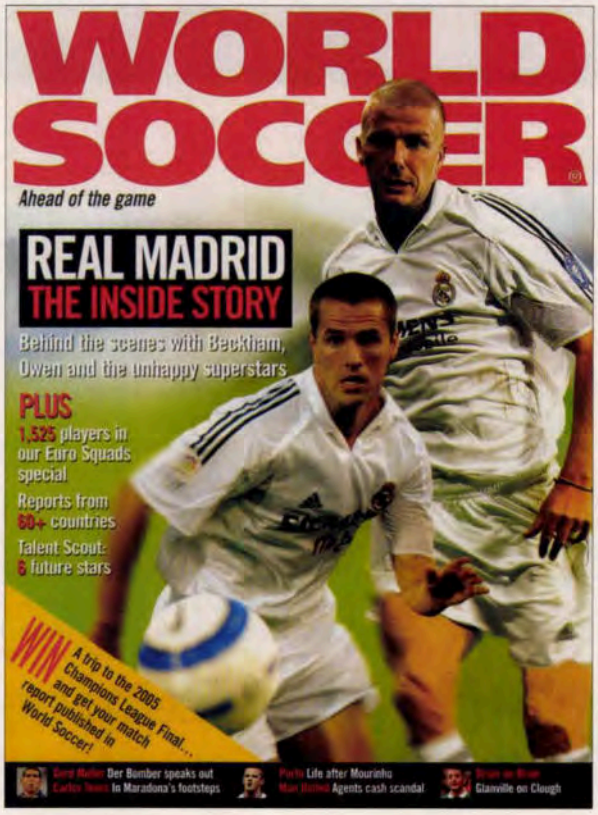


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# Tickety-boo?

**Keir Radnedge assesses the arrangements for finals ticket sales**

THE MOST CONTENTIOUS issue at any World Cup centres on tickets – the numbers, the distribution, the no-shows and the complaints from fans who either could not buy a ticket or could not obtain them in time to attend their chosen matches.

But Germany 2006 will be different, according to FIFA general secretary Urs Linsi. At least, that is what he hopes. Linsi says: "We have never been so well prepared with ticketing."

Not everyone will think so, and Linsi knows this. "This will be the most oversubscribed World Cup in history," he says. "The disappointed fans who can't get tickets will probably criticise us, but people should be fair and not put all the blame on us.

"If we do something wrong we will apologise and do something to put it right. I am confident we have the most experienced ticketing team on board."

Leading that team is a man whose name will probably become tiringly familiar to fans in the months leading up to the finals – Horst R Schmidt, the organising committee's senior vice-president.

"Horst R Schmidt has no equal anywhere in the world because he was head of the ticketing department back in West Germany in 1974," says Linsi. "FIFA is confident that these issues are in the best of hands."

FIFA was reluctant initially to hand over responsibility for ticketing to the German organisers. But it is logical and makes sense, not least because FIFA was heavily criticised for its own role in the ticketing controversies at Korea/Japan 2002. Linsi believes that criticism was unfair, saying: "In 2002 we were criticised for flaws and shortcomings, so we commissioned Ernst & Young to prepare an audit. Looking back on that now we can say the ticketing operation was an absolute success, with only the no-shows that might have been expected.

"We have learned from the experience and made it much simpler for people who cannot use a ticket to return it so we can re-use it. Of course, that requires the co-operation of the original purchaser."

The process of returning tickets is likely to become a contentious one in the run-up to the finals, as will the perennial issues of security and hooliganism.

The first awkward issue concerns numbers. The total capacity of the 12 stadia for the 64 matches is 3,370,000 but 440,000 tickets will be 'lost' to VIPs, media, security and restricted views. This leaves 2,930,000 'real' tickets. Yet 'only' 1,100,000 are being issued for open sale: 812,000 now (from February 1 to March 31 this year), a further 280,000 in other 'windows' before spring 2006 and the remainder (from returns) in the weeks leading up to the opening match on June 9.

Nor will applicants be guaranteed tickets. Fans who apply may have only a one in 10 chance of success. Even Schmidt has not dared to hazard a guess at how far oversubscribed the event will be.

So who will receive the remaining 1,830,000 tickets? Sponsors and their friends, corporate freeloaders, media and VIPs? Fortunately, no. Thirteen per cent (235,000) are being held back for fans of the 32 competing associations. Some, like England's Football Association, have their own registered list of loyal (and peaceful) fans. A tiny percentage will also attend the finals courtesy of sponsor competitions.

The German federation (DFB) has also devised a way of beating European Commission rules designed to give equal rights to would-be purchasers throughout the European Union. The rules prohibit citizens of one member nation being granted preferential treatment to the others. Thus German fans have to scramble for tickets on the internet with the rest of the world.

To soften the blow and ease domestic criticism, the DFB persuaded FIFA to introduce a new ticket sector for the German "football family". Thus another 400,000 will be shared among Germany's regional associations, licensed clubs and registered fan groups.

All fans, however, can benefit from the

## 'We'll have problems we can't even imagine now'

*Organising committee president Franz Beckenbauer*

There's only one winner…England fans argue with riot police in Lisbon during Euro 2004

## Concerns

FIFA CANNOT guarantee segregation between fans at even the most high-risk matches at the 2006 World Cup. Ticketing supremo Horst R Schmidt told me that the German organisers would be relying on fans' own common sense.

Preliminary discussions on security have already been held in the expectation that England, whose fans have been serial offenders over the years, will qualify for the finals.

# COUNTDOWN

Confident...general secretary Urs Linsi says FIFA is better prepared than ever to deal with ticket issues

organisers' other success in persuading FIFA to create the comparatively cheap Category 4 ticket – a 'mere' €35 (£24) for first-round games, excluding the opening match. Fans can also buy a Team Specific Ticket, which will allow them to follow their country at the finals. If their country does not qualify for the finals, the fans can – if they wish – return the tickets for a refund.

Three problems await eager supporters. The first is that venue-specific tickets for matches in one city have been scrapped. A fan may have friends who live in, say, Munich and want to stay with them for the tournament. However, it will be impossible to buy tickets only for Munich matches.

Secondly, MasterCard is the only credit card that can be used by internet purchasers. No Visa. No American Express. No Diners Club. Nor can any charge cards be used. The alternative is to pay by banker's draft.

Thirdly, and most contentiously, the name of the fan for whom a ticket has been bought cannot be changed. Schmidt had no answer when this issue was raised at the media conference to launch the ticket sales. Perhaps, by next spring, he and his colleagues will find one. He has a tough job.

Organising committee president Franz Beckenbauer summed it up perfectly when he said: "Everything else will be fine. But ticketing will be the most sensitive and most complex issue right up to the World Cup Final itself. The only thing of which I am sure is that we will have problems we cannot even imagine at this stage."

## over segregation

Full-scale co-ordination between German and British security services will be stepped up after the draw in December. The Football Association would then be allocated eight per cent of the capacity at each of their first-round stadia.

However, thousands of fans are likely to have bought England-specific tickets before then via the internet sales system launched on February 1.

There were no hooligan problems during England's 2002 campaign in South Korea and Japan largely because potential troublemakers were deterred by cost and distance.

Also, there were far fewer incidents at the Euro 2004 finals in Portugal than at the previous European Championship in Belgium and Holland in 2000. This was credited to the legally-enforced travel ban on known hooligans.

Looking ahead, Schmidt said: "We're confident we'll have adequate security measures in place at all 64 matches. That's one of FIFA's demands we have to fulfil. I'm sure there is a way the [English] FA's own allocation of tickets could be placed together in one corner of the stadia.

"As for any others, we know that at big events it's a total impossibility to control where every fan sits. But we don't consider that a risk because usually people behave very well."

*Keir Radnedge*

## Simple Ticket Guide

**How can I apply to buy tickets?**
Via an application form which can be downloaded from www.FIFAworldcup.com, obtained by fax from +49 (0) 900 1 585858 or by post from 2006 FIFA World Cup Ticketing Center, Re: 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany, 60583 Frankfurt am Main. Fans may also qualify to purchase tickets through their own national associations.

**When can I apply?**
Up until March 31 this year and during similar 'windows' later this year and early next year.

**When will I know whether I have been successful this time around?**
After a computerised draw on April 15. All applications will be treated equally, whether submitted on February 1 or March 31. There is no question of first come, first served.

**How much will tickets cost?**
Single tickets are being sold in four price categories ranging from €35 (£24) for the cheapest first-round tickets to €600 (£415) for the most expensive tickets for the Final.

**How can I pay?**
By banker's draft or MasterCard. No other credit cards or charge cards are valid.

**How are ticket packages organised and can I purchase more than one ticket?**
Up to four tickets can be bought by one applicant for a series of up to seven matches in Categories 1, 2 and 3 (the three most expensive ticket categories). Up to two Category 4 tickets (the cheapest category) can be bought by one applicant for a series of three matches (excluding the opening match). Alternatively, you can apply for a Team Specific Ticket, which, depending on the variant you opt for, will allow you to follow your favourite team throughout the tournament.

**If I buy a ticket for a friend or relative who is then unable to attend the game can I give it to someone else?**
No. The person in whose name you buy a ticket is the only person formally permitted to use it. The Ticketing Office will not change the ticket holder's identity.

**Are tickets available for all matches?**
Yes.

**What happens if I buy a Team Specific Ticket and my country does not qualify?**
You can return the ticket for a refund or keep it and enjoy watching the World Cup anyway.

**When will I receive my tickets?**
Six weeks before the opening match on June 9.

Pointing the way...Ivory Coast coach Henri Michel gets his message across to the players during training

# Ivorians hunting glory

THE IVORY COAST'S rise to prominence in Africa's World Cup qualifying section is no surprise given the depth of talent at the team's disposal, but the timing of their emergence has been unexpected.

The once prosperous country has been racked by civil war in recent years, and the period since the death of benevolent dictator Felix Houphouet Boigny in 1993 marked by a succession of corrupt rulers and coups d'etat.

Striking out...Drogba is a key to the Ivorians' progress

One of the leaders during that period, General Robert Guei, packed the Ivorian national team off to a military detention camp for several days as punishment for their first-round exit at the 2000 African Nations Cup finals in Ghana.

Several players from that nightmare are still in the team, including new captain Bonaventure Kalou. But a new generation of stars have also helped Henri Michel's team overcome the turmoil at home and put them comfortably ahead in what is the toughest of Africa's five World Cup qualifying groups.

The likes of Chelsea's Didier Drogba and his strike partner, Anderlecht's Aruna Dindane, fired the side to four wins in their first five qualifiers to put them two points clear of second-placed Libya at the halfway stage. Meanwhile, Cameroon and Egypt, the two sides expected to dominate Group 3, trail by four and five points respectively.

The Elephants were African champions in 1992 and have long been successful exporters of talent to the top leagues of Europe. But they have never before qualified for the World Cup finals, regularly failing to deliver their enormous potential. This time round, the Ivorian federation has never been better organised nor more closely focused on World Cup qualification despite the civil disorder.

Ivory Coast's next qualifier, at home to lowly Benin at the end of March, gives them an excellent chance of strengthening their grip on the group since Cameroon and Egypt, both with new coaches, have tougher home encounters, against Sudan and Libya respectively.

"We want to become the first Ivorians to go to the World Cup finals," says Arsenal defender Kolo Toure, one of the regulars in the qualifying campaign.

Basile Boli, born in the Ivorian capital, Abidjan, but later a French international, feels his former compatriots have the potential to emulate the feat of Senegal at the 2002 World Cup, when they reached the last eight in their first finals appearance.

All 30 remaining African teams will be in qualifying action at the end of March, with top contenders such as Nigeria and Tunisia facing a battle to come from behind unfancied opposition in their respective groups. Only the winners of the five groups qualify for next year's finals.

*Mark Gleeson*

# REVEALED: our fourth winner

**Dan Lyles from Cambridge is the fourth monthly winner in our exclusive Champions League competition. His entry, published here, will go on to the final shortlist, from which we will select the overall winner, who will win a trip to the Champions League Final in Istanbul in May.**

## WINNER NO 4
### Dan Lyles

As Arsene Wenger continually scratches his head in dismay on wintry Champions League evenings, the Arsenal manager could be excused for diagnosing his side with dual personality disorder. Indeed, Arsenal's inability to transfer their domestic success on to the European stage is proving an enigma.

The roots of the problem lie in the Premier League champions' fundamental lack of width. Arsenal's assaults are primarily launched through the centre of the pitch, where their kaleidoscopic attack prises open the opposition with incisive yet elegant passing moves. With Henry drifting in and out from the left and Bergkamp dropping deep, creative midfielders such as Ljungberg, Pires and Reyes swarm into the box with devastating effect.

This approach has seen Arsenal overwhelm Premiership sides en route to going a domestic Premiership season unbeaten. However, English teams until recently have employed a 4-4-2 formation, whereas Champions League sides utilise a 4-5-1 system, which overloads the central area of the pitch.

When Arsenal can't play through the centre they require a contingency plan, yet they are unable to revert to the flanks. Ashley Cole aside, no one appears willing to cross the ball, and with nobody in the box with the predatory instincts to finish the move, it would prove fruitless anyway. Arsenal are in dire need of restructuring their side to accommodate a central striker and a winger.

Wenger, though, is unlikely to change his system and he may never lift the Holy Grail, which, to his distaste, has previously found its way into a certain other knight's hands (Sir Alex Ferguson).

- We're offering readers the chance to write for the magazine in our exciting Champions League competition. One lucky – and talented – reader will also win a trip to the Champions League Final in Istanbul in May.

- All you have to do is write a short article on the Champions League. It could be a match report, a player profile or an interview with a club tealady. The more original, the better.

- Every month, we will publish the best entry in the magazine. Each monthly winner will then join a shortlist from which the overall winner will be selected.

- The winner of the grand prize will travel to the Champions League Final in Istanbul in May as a guest of *World Soccer*, watch the game as part of the *World Soccer* reporting team, and then write a report that will be published in *World Soccer*.

- So get writing! Entries must be no longer than 250 words, and must be on a subject linked to the Champions League.

- The competition will close after the Champions League quarter-finals. Shortlisted entries will be published in *World Soccer* between now and April. The winner of the grand prize will be selected from the shortlist by a panel of *World Soccer* staff.

- Send your entries to:

**World Soccer Champions League competition,**
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FOOTBALL MEMORIES

# Magician's circle

Brian Glanville on the career of legendary Internazionale coach Helenio Herrera

Champion at last...Herrera takes in his first European Cup triumph with Inter in 1964

RECENT ACCUSATIONS that the late Helenio Herrera had his Internazionale teams on drugs in the 1960s were hardly astonishing. In his ruthless pursuit of success, the man nicknamed *El Mago* (The Magician) was always ready to enforce his will one way or another, even if there was never proof that he was personally involved in the bribery of European Cup referees carried out by the Hungarian expatriate Dezso Solti, under the aegis of Internazionale secretary Italo Allodi.

The drug claims came from Ferruccio Mazzola, younger brother of the better-known Sandrino. Ferruccio, whose stay at Inter was brief, claimed Herrera plied his players with pills – which, on the advice of Sandrino, he secreted under his tongue and spat out – and imposed injections that brought on a burst of energy but had negative after-effects.

Herrera, born in Buenos Aires, was brought up in the slums of Casablanca and went on to carve a solid career as a defender in the French League. But it was as the manager of Barcelona in the late 1950s that he truly established himself as a major figure. However, he sought in vain to win the European Cup – a feat he was to achieve twice with Inter, in 1964 and 1965 – despite the passionate rituals to which he subjected his men before each European match.

First, in a large, bare room with a great wood-clad pillar in the centre, the players were put through a demanding set of exercises, at the end of which Herrera threw a ball at each one in turn, expecting them to swoop on it with head or foot. "A sort of fury seemed to possess them," wrote French critic Jacques Ferran.

Next, the players took a shower and went back to form a circle around Herrera. He threw the ball to each of them, yelling: "What do you think of the match? Why are we going to win? How are we going to play?" To which Brazilian forward Evaristo replied: "We'll win because we want to win!", while keeper Antonio Ramallets answered: "We're one of the best teams in the world, that's why we'll win!"

After a few more sprints, the players then threw themselves into one another's arms, shouting: "We're going to play for one another! You can count on me! We have to win together!"

Then Herrera would produce a white football, to which each player stretched out a hand, chanting: "It's the European Cup! We must have it! We shall have it! Ah, ah, ah!"

Alas, for Barca and Herrera, Real Madrid, the detested rivals, would knock them out in the semi-finals of the 1960 European Cup, winning 3-1 in both legs. So Herrera decamped to Inter.

There, he radically changed his tactical approach, embracing a smothering *catenaccio* in which the sweeper, Armando Picchi, never deserted his post. Swift counter-attack was the name of the game, sometimes in the shape of the towering left-back Giacinto Facchetti, who often scored with his strong right foot. Sandrino Mazzola was the accomplished centre-forward, Mariolino Corso the effective deep left-winger and Luis Suarez, who had followed Herrera from Barcelona, chief playmaker.

**'Herrera sought in vain to win the European Cup with Barcelona despite the passionate rituals to which he subjected his men before each match'**

It was a highly effective side, but who knows whether they would have survived the 1964 and 1965 European Cup semi-finals without the assistance of two bought referees?

English centre-forward Gerry Hitchens hated the weekend training camps held before each game. "Like coming out of the effing Army!" he commented after he left to join Torino. But Inter did win Italian titles and those European Cups.

Herrera joined Roma on a fabulously lucrative contract in 1968 but failed to lead them to the championship. President Alvaro Marchini never forgave him for his callous treatment of gifted young forward Giuliano Taccola. In March 1969 Herrera insisted on including him in the squad for a game at Cagliari, even though the club doctors had diagnosed a heart murmur. Once on Sardinia, he made Taccola train on the beach in icy winds. Later, he collapsed in the dressing-room and died.

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MARCH QUIZ, *World Soccer*, 24th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS

**THIS MONTH'S POSER:**
## Name the famous stadium pictured

**JANUARY QUIZ**
**Winner**: Miroslav Michalik, Bratislava, Slovakia
**Answer**: Katowice stadium, Poland

## FROM THE ARCHIVES
# MARCH 1977

**"SPAIN are reluctantly joining the fences-and-ditches brigade to combat hooliganism after the riots following Johan Cruyff's expulsion against Malaga. Cruyff was suspended for three matches and fined £30 for insulting referee Ricardo Melero in the 2-1 victory at Nou Camp. Barcelona were also fined a record £3,000 for the trouble in which fans tried to beat up the referee, set fire to a TV vehicle and stoned police.**

**"The Spanish federation warned Barca that any more trouble and their ground would be closed, and called on all First and Second Division clubs to submit plans for fences or moats at their stadia.**

**"Possibly the worst consequence for Barcelona was that without Cruyff they lost twice on the trot – to Salamanca and at home to Bilbao – and Atletico Madrid took over the League leadership.**

**"Sadly, spectator incidents have grown more common in Spain but the federation has been slow in acting or even accepting the principle that clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their fans.**

**"It was all right to blame Rangers when their fans ran amok in Barcelona after the 1972 Cup-winners Cup Final, but most of Spain took a dim view of the threatened Champions Cup ban on Real Madrid after a drunk attacked Gerd Muller and referee Erich Linemayr last year."**

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Looking ahead...Carraro would love the European Championship to come to Italy

# Renaissance man

Italian federation chief Franco Carraro talks to Paddy Agnew about how he intends to regenerate his nation's football

FRANCO CARRARO, the 65-year-old president of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and a member of the International Olympic Committee, is one of Italy's most experienced sports administrators. A former world skiing champion, he became president of Milan at just 27 and has also served as Minister for Tourism and as Mayor of Rome. He was president of the Italian Football League from February 1997 until he took up his post with the FIGC in December 2001.

**Is Italian football in economic crisis?**
Football in Italy is a sporting activity with huge social and economic implications. For that reason, it is currently going through all the same difficulties and problems of the country at large, of the Italian economy.

Yet I would like to make a few points. Italian football organises 710,000 professional and amateur games per annum. These games all begin punctually and in 99.9 per cent of cases all end punctually. Football, despite all its problems, is still the best organised, most punctual activity there is in Italy.

It is true, though, that Italian football has its problems. The clubs spend far too much, but it is worth pointing out that the 132 clubs of Serie A, B, C1 and C2 this year had to come up with €725million [£500m] before they could enrol in this season's leagues. The clubs came up with that money, but what the federation cannot do is dictate to the clubs how they spend their money, because they are commercial entities protected by law.

It is also true that many clubs have substantial debts with the Inland Revenue. This is partly because the law changed in 2000 with regard to social security payments. Previously, it had been a felony not to pay an employee's IRPEF [social security], but that felony was abrogated by the 2000 law. Football clubs, like many other entities, clearly stopped paying. That said, in 2003 the total debt of all the clubs to the Inland Revenue was €500m [£345m]; by 2004 it had sunk to €200m [£138m].

What is more, clubs that want to enrol for next season's championship will have to have their books in order by March 31, not only with regard to the payment of players' wages but also with regard to taxes and social security payments. Clubs that are still in debt have to show that they are making regular payments to the Inland Revenue.

**Italy has just announced its candidature to host the Euro 2012 finals. What are the chances of winning the rights?**
It is important to remember that we have full government backing for our candidature. Also, our basic infrastructure is good – I mean, we've got plenty of great cities, with good hotels, good airports and nearly all of them easy to get to by train or car. Our biggest problem concerns our stadia, which need radical modernisation.

**How will you finance the stadia renovation and rebuilding?**
We've just had a parliamentary inquiry that came to the unanimous conclusion that football stadia in Italy must either become the property of the clubs or be rented out to them on a very long lease. Our idea for 2012 is not for the state to build or rebuild the stadia but rather that the stadia be leased to the clubs, who would oversee the reconstruction and renovation, helped by low or zero-interest loans from the state.

Using this system, we ought to be able to eliminate ill-advised renovations that have no long-term value, because if the club is paying for the reconstruction itself, it won't build a 70,000-seater stadium when it knows only too well that what it needs is a 30,000-seater. On the other hand, when a reconstruction project like this is up for a public works contract, then there are always

## 'We have the infrastructure to stage Euro 2012 but our stadia need radical modernisation'

Main attraction...Milan v Roma is one of Serie A's biggest games

all sorts of pressures to make the project bigger and bigger.

**Can you expand on why you think it so important to improve stadia?**
Look at it this way. A cinema enthusiast always prefers to see a film in the cinema rather than on TV. Yet, if every time he goes to the cinema he finds the place dirty, full of cigarette butts, with no decent toilet facilities and worst of all with a dirty screen that makes it difficult to see the film, then he'll decide to stay at home. There are stadia in Italy that are simply less than decent, where it's difficult to even find the toilets, where from certain parts of the stand you have difficulty seeing the match. My view is that if we create decent stadia – and I'm not talking about ultra-luxurious stadia, because football is a game of the people and that's the way it should remain – then many things will improve. There has to be a plus factor about going to a stadium.

**You suggested recently that FIFA and UEFA should consider introducing technological innovations to help referees.**
As far as I'm concerned, all forms of technological innovation that can help the referee are welcome. Why not some sort of beep when a player goes offside? Given the number of people who watch football, given the cost of TV rights, it seems absurd not to take on board TV evidence, to treat the TV footage as some sort of 'virtual' evidence. The fact is that often what the TV footage shows is true, and it is the referee's decision that was 'virtual'.

A sport as important as football has an obligation to public opinion to check out whether the current situation is as good as it can be or whether it should have recourse to technology. But it would be unthinkable that a game could last three hours because there was a debate every three minutes about a referee's decision.

**Fan behaviour at Italian games, in terms of racist and violent incidents, seems to be getting worse. Do you agree?**
Yes, and there are four major reasons for our fan problems. Firstly, the stadia are not good enough. Secondly, we need to make a lot of improvement in terms of ticket sales. Thirdly, in some cases the relationship between clubs and fans is not good – some clubs maybe don't talk enough to their fans, some maybe get the runaround from them.

The fourth reason is a legal point, relating to the certainty of punishment. In England, a fan who misbehaves will be apprehended and punished. In Italy, it is not so clear. A fan who misbehaves in Palermo, for example, might get banned for three years, while a fan who does the same thing at Udinese may get off with a caution thanks to a legal technicality.

The Anglo-Saxon legal system is simpler, more direct and provides greater certainty that the person who does something wrong will be immediately punished for it. And I say that notwithstanding the fact that [the Italian] parliament has passed a series of laws to deal with fan violence. The guy who knifed and killed the Genoa fan [Simone Barbaglia stabbed Vincenzo Spagnolo on January 29, 1995, before a Genoa v Milan game] was out of prison in 11 months.

**Italy has 132 professional clubs. Is that too many?**
The reality in Italy is that when you interfere with clubs, everyone at local level kicks up a huge rumpus. Just look at what happened this summer when we put Napoli out of Serie B because of the club's economic problems. Just to enforce the rules re Napoli, we had to hold negotiations almost throughout August. In these situations, everybody at local level gets involved, politicians from both the right and the left and local groups to defend their team.

Italy is a country of 100 mini-states with a strong sense of local culture, exaggerated local pride if you like. A way to reduce the number of professional clubs could be the following, and this is an idea I would like to see the federation implement as of next season: when a side's finances are such that it is not entitled to be enrolled in a championship, rather than immediately replacing it with another team, perhaps we don't replace it and only replace one out of every two sides in difficulty. That way, we would begin to reduce the number of clubs.

**Would collective TV rights bargaining help to bridge the growing gap between the rich clubs and the rest?**
The gulf between the big and small clubs, the rich and not so rich, is not new. If you look at the English, Italian, Spanish or German championships, you'll see that the sides that win the titles today were winning them 40 years ago as well.

I believe that TV rights have to be considered part subjective and part collective. Sure, clubs are right to say that the copyright is theirs, and if a game – say Milan v Roma – is a friendly, the clubs are entitled to everything. But if it is being played in the Serie A championship, then it has a different value, it is 'worth' more because it is a League game. In this case, TV rights have to be shared around.

Mind you, if you ask for collective bargaining and greater sharing of the TV rights money, the top division clubs might hold back on the €100m [£70m] Serie A gives to Serie B every year. That €100m is much more than Serie B itself earns.

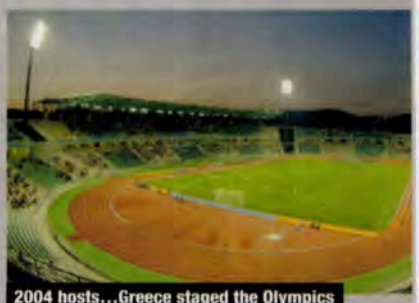
# Euro 2012: the bids in full

Italy's was one of eight bids to host the European Championship finals in 2012. Candidates must submit a dossier by July 21 this year to UEFA, whose executive committee will decide a shortlist of three in November. The final decision will be made in December 2006.

**AZERBAIJAN**
**A surprise bid from the former Soviet republic but unlikely to get off the ground.**

**CROATIA-HUNGARY**
**Both countries have been unsuccessful bidders in the past, each with different partners. Croatia, with neighbours Bosnia-Herzegovina, lost out on 2008, while Hungary bid for Euro 2004 with Austria and then went it alone for 2008.**

**GREECE**
**Going it alone after a joint 2008 bid with Turkey failed. Greek football is on a high after the Euro 2004 triumph, while there is a strong infrastructure in place after hosting last year's Olympics.**


2004 hosts...Greece staged the Olympics

**ITALY**
**Have hosted the tournament twice before, in 1960 and 1980, when it was a very different beast. Will claim it is their turn among Europe's major football nations, though that did not work for Spain in the bidding for 2004. But will be strong contenders if they can find the money to renovate stadiums.**

**POLAND-UKRAINE**
**Neither have bid for the finals before, and they would require some £500million investment in stadiums and infrastructure to be taken seriously.**

**ROMANIA**
**Another that will require serious financial commitment just to get off the ground. The Romanians discussed a joint bid with Hungary before deciding to go it alone.**

**RUSSIA**
**Could be strong candidates, assuming they can resolve the recent problems within their federation – Vyacheslav Koloskov has just resigned as president. Russian football, particularly in Moscow, has experienced huge investment in recent times, with some impressive new stadium developments. But matching the tourist appeal of countries like Italy, Greece and Turkey could be a problem.**

**TURKEY**
**Likely to be contenders, thanks in part to the influence of UEFA vice-president Senes Erzik, a possible candidate in the forthcoming UEFA presidential election. Good stadiums in Istanbul, not so good in the rest of the country.**

WS WORLD SOCCER GLOBAL VIEW Paul Gardner

# Just go with the flow

Coaching manuals can never locate the heart and soul of the game

OVER THE YEARS I have amassed, quite unintentionally, a mountain of soccer coaching books. They come in all sizes and languages, from what used to be called simply 'The Bible' – Arpad Csanadi's copiously illustrated and relentlessly unreadable doorstopper on how the Hungarians did things back in the 1950s – down to anonymous little pamphlets about My Ten Favourite Youth Drills.

Many of these books are written (or co-authored) by some of the sport's biggest names, yet something gets lost when what they undoubtedly know and feel about the sport is put into print.

Skimming over 30 of these books has only managed to confirm a long-held belief – the more sophisticated and knowledgeable the analysis, the less recognisable the sport. My head is now crammed with generations-worth of buzzwords and terms, from W-M formations to creating space, retaining shape and the art of pressurising.

**'Greece's Euro 2004-winning side – a team with rhythm and flow? Do me a favour'**

Somehow that last word – pressurising – sums up so much of what turns me off these books. Why is it used when the shorter word pressuring would do just as well?

I have the answer – it is used exactly because it is longer, and because it sounds scientific. And that is the impression that most of these coaching books are trying to convey – that there is a science of coaching, that it has its basic facts and unchallengeable truths, and that if you want to play and understand the game you had better make sure you learn them (providing, of course, that you learn them from whichever author you happen to be reading).

Not that there's that much difference in the books. Originality is not their most obvious feature. After a while your mind becomes filled with doubts about whether any of this stuff is of any value. How can it be otherwise when the cast-iron you-must-do-it-this-way theories from one generation are flatly rejected – or simply ignored – by the next generation?

Searching for an underlying truth to the game, something that should surely be discussed in every book, regardless of when or where it was written, I settled on the word 'rhythm'. Maybe that word is hidden in one or two of these manuals, but I couldn't find it anywhere. Certainly, it's not present in the more than 20 indexes where I tried to find it.

Yet all the best soccer that I have seen over the years, all the best players that I have admired, have had a rhythm to their play and their style. I looked the word up in my dictionary. A mistake. Here's what I found: "Flow, movement, procedure etc. characterised by basically regular recurrence of elements or features as beat, or accent, in alternation with opposite or different elements or features."

Which is not much better than the over-complicated pseudo-technical jargon that infests the coaching books. If that dictionary definition had stopped after its first word, just that word 'flow', I would have been quite satisfied.

Football played with rhythm flows. It is surely significant that the word 'flow' is usually heard in the coaching vocabulary in a negative sense – as in "we have to disrupt the flow of their game".

Stopping a team's flow can be worked on, can be coached. Creating the flow, it seems, cannot; the concept doesn't appear in any of the coaching books I've been looking at.

Admittedly, it wouldn't be that easy to define, but you'd think someone would have found it important enough for a mention.

It's also one of those things that you tend to notice most when it suddenly isn't there.

I recall watching Brazil lose a 2002 World Cup qualifier to Paraguay. It was a distressing experience because this was a Brazil without rhythm or flow. The glowing yellow shirts were there, and there were plenty of those ravishing moments of skill and artistry, but there was absolutely no flow to the Brazilians' game.

The normal Brazilian ability to control and retain the ball and to move it with intelligence and to impose their own rhythm on the game was lacking. Quite possibly the Paraguayans were giving the ultimate lesson in 'disrupting the flow' – certainly the fragmented game, reduced to repeated midfield tussles for the ball, was much more to their liking.

Breaking the rhythm...Paraguay take on Brazil

But a rhythmless Brazil is fortunately a rare sight in football. Which brings me to another point to note about the word 'flow'. It applies only to attacking soccer. A team does not have a defensive flow. Teams that flow are attack-oriented teams.

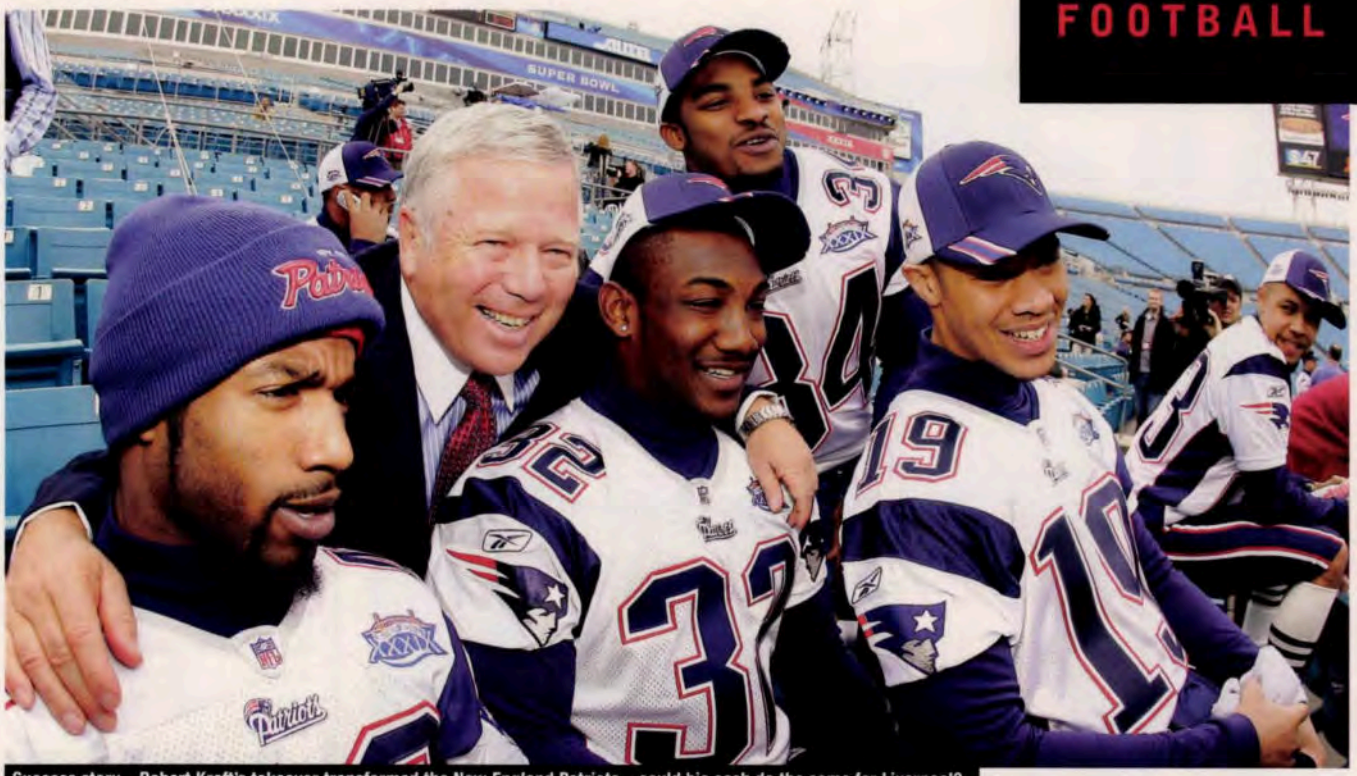
You would not expect – and you do not get – anything remotely approaching a flow from the counter-attacking teams we see far too many of these days. Greece 2004 – a team with rhythm and flow? Do me a favour.

## More rhythm, more titles

Back to Brazil, the team that gives the fullest expression to the concepts of rhythm and flow. Brazil also happens to be the team that win most soccer titles – at all age levels, and you can throw in indoor and beach soccer while you're about it.

I'm saying that talk of rhythm is not merely fanciful theory. Certainly it is considerably less fanciful than some of the coaching-manual theories. These books and their authors (no Brazilians, as it happens) choose to ignore the mysteries of rhythm because they evidently find it too difficult a subject to deal with.

Much easier to waffle on about the merits of 3-5-2 and so on, those little numerical codes that seem so scientifically solid.



Success story...Robert Kraft's takeover transformed the New England Patriots – could his cash do the same for Liverpool?

# Tale of two takeovers

**Simon Banks on the differing reactions to American advances in Manchester and Liverpool**

WITH HIS RENEWED bid for Manchester United, it is clear that US tycoon Malcolm Glazer has not given up hope of taking control of the world's richest football club.

The owner of the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers has appointed merchant bank N M Rothschild to advise on his £800million bid, but United fans are extremely hostile to the thought of an American corporate raider marching in to Old Trafford. However, a few miles down the road on Merseyside, talk of a takeover of Liverpool by another NFL owner is greeted with more enthusiasm.

There are two reasons why the reception afforded both men is so different.

Firstly, Liverpool are in desperate need of a cash injection if they are to recapture their position as England's top team. In contrast, United continue to make profits every year and still win trophies.

Secondly, Liverpool are thought to be the target of New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who has led the Boston outfit to a remarkable three Super Bowl victories in the past four years. Since buying the struggling franchise 11 years ago the Kraft family has transformed them into one of the NFL's biggest teams and secured them the state-of-the-art £180m Gillette stadium.

Liverpool's parlous financial state was revealed in the club's latest annual report and accounts. Because they failed to reach the Champions League last season, turnover was down from £102.5m to £91.5m. On top of that, Liverpool had to pay off departed manager Gerard Houllier and his backroom staff with a cool £10m. That meant a pre-tax loss of £18.2m, compared to a profit of £2.3m the previous year.

As well as trying to generate funds for new manager Rafael Benitez to build a winning team, the Liverpool board need to finance a new stadium. Chief executive Rick Parry has been flying around the world having talks with the likes of Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, but so far to no avail. Closer to home, local businessman Steve Morgan has had his £75m bid rejected, chiefly because he sought to remove chairman David Moores, whose family own 51.65 per cent of the club's shares.

### Kraft strategy

Kraft is thought to be involved in a consortium with Liverpool-born Hollywood film executive Mike Jefferies and Californian media lawyer Stuart Ford. Although he has yet to go public with his interest, he recently told the *Financial Times:* "Do we have an interest in other franchises globally? Yes."

Kraft also allayed any doubts Liverpool fans may have about his strategy, which is something Glazer has conspicuously failed to do for United fans. "When we get involved in a team we do it to win, not to make money," said Kraft.

**'When we get involved with a team, we do it to win, not to make money'**
*Robert Kraft*

My shout...but Glazer has not convinced United fans

Home-grown – in Ireland...Manchester United's John O'Shea

# G-14: what's the point?

**The big clubs seem happy to talk player quotas in UEFA's club forum**

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO G-14? You remember, that group of elite European clubs who were going to drive a forceful new agenda through the game's boardrooms.

From the apparent dustbin of football history G-14 suddenly raised its head in response to UEFA's proposals to enforce an increasingly large quota of home-grown players on European competition clubs.

Personally, I reckon that anything which restricts employment rights will upset the European Commission but UEFA must have been advised that it could sail close to the political wind.

Most of the current Champions League clubs would struggle to meet the quotas, though confusion exists because of uncertainty about whether home-grown players means players of the same nationality as the club. Liverpool and Manchester United, for example, have a number of Scottish and Irish youngsters who qualify as home-grown despite not owing their national team allegiance to England.

G-14 general manager Thomas Kurth appeared to sit on the quotas fence, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses. His problem is that UEFA will address clubs only through its own club forum – in which the likes of Bayern Munich, Juventus, Arsenal and Man United are becoming increasingly powerful.

The issue of national team compensation is still rumbling in the background. But unless G-14 can get its teeth into quotas then it may be perceived to be lacking any bite at all.

So then what point its very existence?

**'Unless G-14 can get its teeth into quotas it may be seen to be lacking any bite at all'**

# Stars and their sell-by dates

IT IS FASCINATING to contrast what happens to outstanding players as they drift beyond their sell-by dates.

Marc Overmars, for instance, cut short his contract with Barcelona last year a season early because he felt he could not go through another season with his long-term injuries.

He could have limped along, picked up his money, been wheeled out in friendlies and just hung around. But to the Dutchman that would have been dishonest, so he quit to return home and help in the family business selling antique cars.

Another interesting tale came from Italy, where midfielder Francesco Coco, having been kept out of competitive football for 15 months because of injury, offered to play for a year free for Inter "because they paid me for a year when I couldn't justify earning the money".

But it's not always like that.

Consider Alex Del Piero. Here is Italy's finest natural talent of the 1990s, winner of all manner of titles and trophies, still believing in the player he was rather than the player he is.

The evidence was there, sadly, to see at the Euro 2004 finals. Del Piero looked off the pace and consequently short on confidence. He looked like a player who believed his own hype but who could no longer produce the performances to reflect the image.

Juventus coach Fabio Capello clearly thinks the same. Del Piero rarely starts a game these days, and on one of the few occasions he has, Juve, the League leaders, lost at home to Palermo. This allowed closest Serie A pursuers Milan to close the gap and led to Capello being berated by pundits and Juve fans alike for overcooking the rotation recipe.

The fact that the coach had been berated by the supporters a week or so earlier for NOT bringing on Del Piero late in a game for the injured Pavel Nedved was forgotten.

It's tough being a coach. Even tougher being a player who has gone over the top of the most notorious hill.

### Roman won't take Russian post

**In my report from the heart of the Russian football revolution recently I noted that pressure was building up at last to remove that great survivor Vyacheslav Koloskov as president of the Russian federation.**

**That pressure has finally achieved its objective with Koloskov resigning. After more than 20 years at the helm of football in a country turning turbulently from communist centralism to the murk of market forces, Koloskov was out of fashion. He was a member of the old guard rather than a child of the get-rich-quick oligarchy.**

**His removal was accompanied by speculation that the job was being opened up for Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich. But then Chelsea get linked with everything that moves in football these days.**

**On the basis that Abramovich appears to be moving much of his interest out of Russia it appears unlikely that he will want a job which demands a greater presence in Russia that may be quite wise.**

**● South American confederation bosses do not intend to waste the old World Club Cup, which has now become redundant with the approach of the revived Club World Championship. CONMEBOL president Nicolas Leoz wants to use the pot to reward the annual winners of a meeting between the winners of the European Supercup and its South American equivalent.**

**● Lars-Christer Olsson is much easier to work with than Gerd Aigner, his predecessor as UEFA chief executive. It must be true – the man who makes that claim is FIFA president Sepp Blatter. Maybe Olsson should be worried.**

# Austrian boss a Stickler for punctuality

AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND will be ready to host the European Championship finals in 2008 despite concerns behind the scenes at UEFA.

Austria federation president Friedrich Stickler is confident that he will, eventually, get the new stadium built at Klagenfurt just as the Swiss have managed to substitute the redevelopment of Zurich's Letzigrund stadium for the aborted new stadium in the city.

"No worries," says Stickler, "there's still three years to go and we're a long way down the planning stage. We also believe that the Swiss are strong partners to have. Portugal raised the bar in terms of Euro finals but I think we can do even better."

Stickler is head of the Austrian lottery but in these times it seemed impolitic to ask him what odds he would put on the Austro-Swiss hosting going ahead without a hitch.

**Going to plan...Stickler believes the 2008 finals preparations are on schedule**

# End tapping debate by letting players talk

MY POLICY ON football's administrative regulations has always been that they should differ from those afflicting the man in the street as little as possible. That is what maintains the link between football and its largest audience – the common touch.

Using that as the standard makes easy viewing of an issue generating as much hot air as headlines: the tapping of players. The tapping issue exploded into public glare with a Sunday newspaper's report that Chelsea officials, including chief executive Peter Kenyon and manager Jose Mourinho, had met Arsenal full-back Ashley Cole in a London hotel along with a couple of agents.

**Talk time...Ashley Cole**

No harm in a social get-together, of course. But this alleged meeting appears to have had an undercurrent, particularly when juxtaposed with the fact that Cole's agents were reportedly struggling to get him the deal he wanted to stay at Highbury.

Now, if this were true, it would drive a coach and horses through football law banning approaches that cut out the middle man (i.e., in this case, the player's club). Direct chat is allowed only when a player is in the last six months of his contract, which Cole is not.

Clubs often make a big song and dance but it's rare you ever find them complaining because they could then be accused of hypocrisy.

But isn't this a nonsense? A simple way exists to declassify tapping: let footballers enjoy the same right as every working man or woman – the right to talk when and wherever he may like about changing his job and/or employer.

If it's good enough for you and me then it's good enough for Ashley Cole. Or vice versa. Allegedly.

# Scandal causes ref rethink

GERMANY'S REFEREEING scandal has placed a question mark against the policy of driving down the average and maximum ages of referees.

"We may have to think about this," said Hertha Berlin general manager Dieter Hoeness. It was through his club that bent ref Robert Hoyzer, 25, was registered with the German federation.

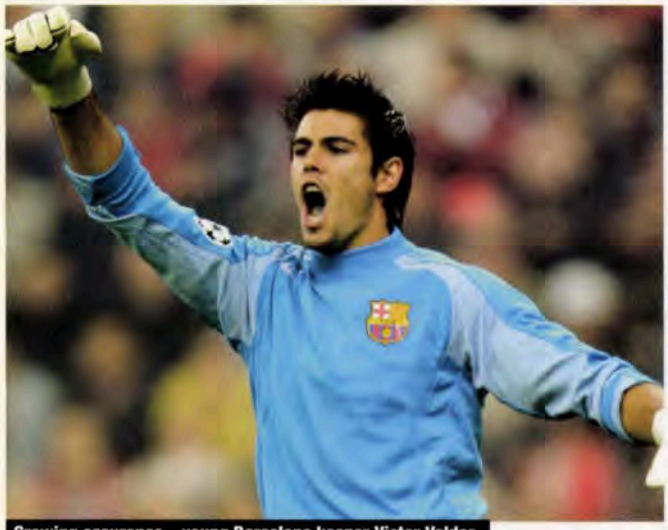
Hoeness added: "It's all very well wanting referees to be younger because then they are fitter and it's a better incentive for the young referees. But it also means that as men they are perhaps not mature enough to cope with some of the pressures – and in football today there are more than enough of those which even old heads struggle to deal with."

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has been thinking along the same lines. That is why the world federation's executive has been wondering how to bend the rules so Pierluigi Collina, now 45, can go on beyond this year and into the 2006 World Cup finals.

Of course a minority believes that the cult of personality has been overdeveloped in Collina's case but I would rather have an honest egotist than a modest crook.

# DIGEST

NEWS AND REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Growing assurance...young Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes

Game of chances...Bayern are relying on Roy Makaay's predatory instincts

## Barcelona v Chelsea

BARCELONA, RUNNERS-UP to Milan in their group, arguably played the most attractive football in Europe last autumn, the passing ability and vision of Deco and Xavi in midfield dovetailing perfectly with the rapier-like forward thrusts of Ronaldinho, Samuel Eto'o and Ludovic Giuly.

There are other reasons why the Catalans are among the favourites for the competition: the growing assurance of young Victor Valdes in goal, the solidity and will to win of centre-back Carles Puyol, the underrated strengths of defensive midfielder Rafael Marquez, and the tactical nous of coach Frank Rijkaard.

Barca will be drawing on confidence gleaned from one of their best domestic campaigns for many years. A 3-0 defeat at Villarreal in their first Liga game of 2005 was, of course, a setback but they were soon back on track with victories over Real Sociedad (1-0), Racing Santander (3-0) and Sevilla (4-0). The Catalans have a substantial lead over second-placed Real Madrid and it would take a dramatic turn of events for them not to win the Spanish championship.

The Camp Nou infirmary has been a busy place this term after a spate of serious knee injuries. Midfielders Edmilson, Thiago Motta and Gabri and forward Henrik Larsson are all out for the long-term. On the transfer front, Barca recently recruited veteran Italian midfielder Demetrio Albertini from Atalanta and highly-touted Argentinian attacker Maxi Lopez (River Plate).

The odds may suggest that Chelsea will be hard-pressed to complete the quadruple of Champions League, Premiership, FA Cup and League Cup. However, given their outstanding individuals, sense of hunger, squad and coaching genius of maverick Portuguese Jose Mourinho, nothing seems impossible.

Chelsea are nothing less than a winning machine. Graft a hermetically-sealed defence – they had not conceded in eight full League games up to early February – on to an attacking division that offers width, pace and a huge goal threat and you have a unit to die for.

**'Chelsea are nothing less than a winning machine'**

While the wealth of owner Roman Abramovich has enabled Chelsea to build a squad of impressive strength in depth, some players are simply irreplaceable. One such is flying winger Arjen Robben, who recently injured a foot in a Premiership game at Blackburn and seems certain to miss both legs against Barcelona.

One newcomer to the Blues' ranks is Czech midfielder Jiri Jarosik, on loan from CSKA Moscow.

## Bayern Munich v Arsenal

BAYERN'S MANAGEMENT and players, always so confident of prevailing in the Bundesliga, are not displaying the same self-assurance when asked about their prospects in the Champions League. The majority say they would be content with a place in the quarter-finals, and on the evidence of their group stage form, that should be the limit of their ambitions. Bayern's only truly dominant display was the 4-0 thrashing of Ajax, while home and away losses to Juventus suggest they are some way off the top table.

**'Bayern's defeats by Juventus suggest they are some way off Europe's top table'**

The club's European fate hinges to a large extent on four players. Keeper Oliver Kahn must eradicate the mistakes that have sullied his reputation in the past year; Brazilian centre-back Lucio has to maintain the high standards he set in the autumn; Michael Ballack has to be in optimum creative form; and Dutch striker Roy Makaay has to grab any chance that comes his way.

Bayern made only one signing in January, bringing in French left-back Bixente Lizarazu from Marseille just a few months after he left the Olympiastadion. Lizarazu lasted just six minutes in his first game back, a torn calf muscle sending him to the sidelines, though he should be ready for Arsenal. Bayern's opening two games since the winter break ended in a 3-0 home win over Hamburg and a goalless bore at Hertha Berlin.

The business end of the Champions League has rarely been a happy hunting ground for Arsenal under coach Arsene Wenger, and with the Gunners seemingly out of the Premiership race following a bitter 4-2 home loss to arch-rivals Manchester United, success in Europe has become even more urgent.

On countless occasions in recent seasons, Arsenal have taken the lead in Champions League ties, only to sit back and allow their opponents back into the match. Wenger has several other problems to deal with. Neither Spaniard Manuel Almunia nor German Jens Lehmann looks convincing in goal; the squad lacks a little depth, particularly in central defence; Dennis Bergkamp's fear of flying means he will not be available for the first leg; and many key performers – centre-back Sol Campbell, midfielders Robert Pires and Patrick Vieira, and striker Thierry Henry – have lost form of late. The good news was that Brazilian midfielder Edu did not leave for Valencia during the transfer window.

# It's a knockout

Nick Bidwell previews the Champions League second round matches

Goal force...striker Dimitar Berbatov (right) is a key man for Leverkusen

Prickly customer...United's Alan Smith could prove a handful for Milan

## Liverpool v Bayer Leverkusen

LIVERPOOL BE WARNED. Leverkusen's strength at home and big-match temperament have already been in evidence this season, particularly in comprehensive Champions League victories over Real Madrid (3-0), Roma (3-1) and Kyiv Dynamo (3-0), and Bayern Munich (4-1) in the Bundesliga.

Finishing atop a very strong Champions League group was no mean achievement for the *Leverkusener*. But perfectionist coach Klaus Augenthaler is well aware that not all in the Rhineland garden is rosy. Up until Christmas, the team were often anonymous in the first half and all-conquering in the second. 'Auge' wants concentration and application levels to improve, and since the winter break he has had his wish, watching his side move into third place in the table thanks to a 3-0 win at Hannover and a 4-0 victory over Bochum.

Apart from Brazilian centre-back Roque Junior and his sore knee, the Leverkusen treatment room is empty, while the only 'new' face in their ranks is USA captain and attacking midfielder/forward Landon Donovan. In fact, the young American was at the club between 1999 and 2001 but did not get off the bench.

Ultimately, much will depend on Leverkusen's eastern European strikeforce of Bulgarian Dimitar Berbatov and Andrii Voronin of the Ukraine.

Liverpool booked their spot in the last 16 by coming from behind to defeat Olympiakos 3-1. But the euphoria generated by Steven Gerrard's spectacular late goal that sealed their progress has quickly died down, extinguished by a series of injuries and poor domestic results. These included home League losses to Chelsea and Manchester United and a 1-0 FA Cup defeat to second level Burnley.

Manager Rafa Benitez is feeling the heat for the first time since he arrived on Merseyside from Valencia last summer. Doubts persist about whether his side can finish in the Premiership top four – the Champions League positions – and many are pointing the finger at some of his Spanish signings: attacker Luis Garcia, midfielder Antonio Nunez and defenders Josemi and Mauricio Pellegrino.

**'Benitez is feeling the heat for the first time since arriving on Merseyside'**

In mitigation, Benitez has been hampered by a succession of long-term injuries – to brilliant Basque midfielder Xabi Alonso, keeper Chris Kirkland and both French strikers, Djibril Cisse and Florent Sinama-Pongolle. Those latter two absences leave Liverpool decidedly short of options in attack, where Czech Milan Baros has gone off the boil and new signing Fernando Morientes is cup-tied.

## Manchester United v Milan

AT THE TIME of the second round draw, the consensus was that Manchester United would have a chance against Milan only if Ruud Van Nistelrooy managed to recover in time from a long-term Achilles injury. But although that argument has some validity – Van Nistelrooy has scored 36 goals in 37 Champions League games for United – the fact is that United have been doing very nicely without him, winning eight out of nine Premiership games to early February, including highly satisfying victories at Liverpool and Arsenal.

**'Could it be that Milan rely too heavily for goals on Shevchenko? If he does not deliver, who will?'**

Even if Van Nistelrooy does not make it, United have the attacking means to trouble the Milan back four. Provided he controls that hair-trigger temperament of his, boy wonder Wayne Rooney is the most exciting talent to come out of these isles for years, Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs are at their incisive best after spells in the doldrums, and the Milanese defenders will surely not relish facing the prickly Alan Smith. The goalkeeping position, though, is something of a concern, with both Roy Carroll and Tim Howard prone to gaffes.

There were no new signings in the January transfer window, while Cameroon midfielder Eric Djemba Djemba moved on to Aston Villa.

The good news for Milan fans is that their side are a veritable who's who of world-class talent: Cafu, Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Nesta, Kaka, Andrii Shevchenko et al. The bad news is that they have recently shown inconsistency, alternating comfortable wins against Lecce (5-2), Udinese (3-1) and Messina (4-1) with sorry performances in back-to-back defeats away to newly-promoted Livorno and at home to Bologna. Much food for thought for coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Could it be that Milan rely too heavily for goals on European Player of the Year Shevchenko? If the Ukrainian does not deliver, who do they turn to? Kaka's form has slipped, Jon Dahl Tomasson is not happy with his permanent role as a supersub and Pippo Inzaghi has missed most of the season, first with an ankle injury, now with a damaged hand.

Shevchenko himself was stretchered off in the Bologna game with severe bruising to an ankle. But he should be fit for the first leg at Old Trafford, the scene of Milan's last Champions League Final triumph in 2003.

Weight on his shoulders...Juan Veron is under pressure to deliver for Inter

Head first...PSV's Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink is back among the goals after injury

## FC Porto v Internazionale

VICTORY IN THE World Club Cup Final aside, this has been a season to forget for Porto. The Champions League holders made heavy weather of qualification for the last 16, have been unusually vulnerable domestically and are now on to their third coach of the campaign following the sacking of Spaniard Victor Fernandez and the appointment of Vitoria Setubal boss Jose Couceiro.

Fernandez's dismissal had an air of inevitability about it. He never had Porto's senior pros on side, the Brazilians in the squad (striker Derlei and midfielders Carlos Alberto and Diego) were in open rebellion and a string of poor domestic League results since the turn of the year were enough to bring down the curtain on him. Couceiro certainly has a massive task in front of him, with his priorities the need to stabilise the back four and to find a way to bring out the best of the talented but erratic Diego.

Porto employed a revolving door policy during the transfer window. Derlei and Carlos Alberto were sold to Dinamo Moscow and Corinthians respectively, Hugo Leal, Cesar Peixoto and Hugo Almeida moved on loan to Academica, Guimaraes and Boavista, while a pair of Brazilians were recruited in striker Claudio Pitbull (Gremio) and midfielder Leo Lima (Maritimo).

What to make of Inter? Yes, they can be proud of remaining unbeaten in both the Champions League and Serie A this term – their run of 23 games without defeat at the start of February was their longest in the domestic League since 1952-53. But the fact remains that they draw far too many matches for a team with serious aspirations. Fourteen draws in the Italian championship says everything about a side that have been cleverly set up by coach Roberto Mancini but tend to be overly pedestrian.

**'Inter's forte is their indomitable spirit. The late comeback is a house speciality'**

What Inter need is someone to effectively spread the ball around in midfield. However, the man best suited to that role, Juan Sebastian Veron, has so far failed to deliver.

Inter's forte is their indomitable spirit. The late comeback is a house speciality – note the late, late show that turned a two-goal deficit into a 3-2 victory over Sampdoria at San Siro in January.

Outstanding Brazilian front man Adriano holds the key for Inter, and Mancini will be fervently hoping that he can shake off the calf problem that has plagued him lately. Also on Mancini's wish list would be a return to form for striker Christian Vieri – his brace in a 2-0 win at Palermo might just suggest it is coming.

## PSV Eindhoven v Monaco

PSV, IN THE second round of the Champions League for the first time, are not a hot tip to make further progress. However, no one should be writing them off just yet. Coach Guus Hiddink is a master of producing teams worth much more than the sum of their parts, and as he proved in both matches with Arsenal in the group phase (a 1-0 loss at Highbury and a 1-1 draw in Eindhoven), he is tactically a match for anyone.

**'PSV coach Guus Hiddink is a master of producing teams worth much more than the sum of their parts'**

January 2005 was an exceedingly good month for PSV. Not only did the transfer window come and go without the departure of influential midfield strategist Mark Van Bommel but also the team regained top spot in the Dutch championship courtesy of wins over NAC Breda (4-0) and RKC Waalwijk (4-1). Striker Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink hit a hat-trick in the latter game and has clearly made a full recovery from the shoulder injury that sidelined him earlier in the season. The medical report on experienced midfielder Philip Cocu is not so encouraging – he is still troubled with a pulled hamstring.

PSV, once home to Ronaldo and Romario, continue to buy Brazilian front men, completing the mid-season signing of Robert, a free-scoring 23-year-old from Mexican side Atlas. Heading out of the club was young defender Michael Jakobsen, who left for AaB Aalborg in his native Denmark after failing to gain a first-team spot.

Before the draw for the second round, Monaco boss Didier Deschamps claimed a large proportion of the last 16 were hoping to be paired with his side, and at the time there was more than a hint of truth in that. Apart from a 5-0 win away to Deportivo La Coruna, they did not particularly sparkle in the group stage, and after failing to win a single French League game in October and November, club president Michel Pastor read the riot act.

But today's Monaco are a quite different proposition. Gone are the crass defensive errors and disjointed attacking play of the autumn and, thanks to a 13-match unbeaten run, they are again riding high in Ligue 1. "A while back we simply weren't a team," said skipper Gael Givet. "That's all changed now."

On the injury front, centre-back Julien Rodriguez and prolific Uruguayan forward Javier Chevanton are expected to be available to Deschamps after spells on the sidelines with ankle ligament injuries.

A blow for the club is that striker Shabani Nonda has said he is leaving on a Bosman free at the end of the season.

They shall not pass...but can Real find the resolve to deny Juventus over two legs?

Lyon prince...great things are expected from young striker Nilmar

## Real Madrid v Juventus

STRICTLY IN TERMS of results, new Real boss Vanderlei Luxemburgo has made a difference, leading the galacticos to five straight La Liga wins since taking over from Mariano Garcia Remon at the end of last year. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Luxemburgo's Real have not looked any more convincing than the team that hardly covered themselves in glory in the Champions League group stage. The 2002 European champions secured qualification for the last 16 only with a 3-0 win against a Roma B team on the final matchday in a game played behind closed doors in the Stadio Olimpico.

There are still many more questions than answers about the class of 2004-05. Are the likes of Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane, David Beckham and Raul past their prime? Is the centre of defence strong enough? Where is the ball-winning ability in midfield? Can Michael Owen score only when coming off the bench?

The first act of Real's freshly-installed director of football, former Italy and Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi, was to lure Denmark midfielder Thomas Gravesen away from Everton. It may prove a wise piece of business. Real desperately need some bite and tactical nous in central midfield, qualities that Gravesen has in spades.

It is impossible to find fault with Juventus's season so far. Not content with topping their Champions League group – they won five out of six games and conceded just one goal – they are also in pole position for yet another Serie A title, though defending champions Milan may have something to say about that.

**'There are still many more questions than answers about the Real class of 2004-05'**

Confidence in the *bianconeri* camp is sky high, and that master tactician and leader of men Fabio Capello knows all about running a successful European campaign. However, he does have a few headaches. The coach has yet to find the ideal central midfield partner for Brazilian dynamo Emerson – Manuele Blasi, Stephen Appiah and Alessio Tacchinardi all have their weaknesses – and there are some difficult choices to be made up front. Alex Del Piero, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and David Trezeguet – who recently returned after a shoulder operation – are fighting for two berths. Del Piero could be the one to miss out.

All Juve fans will be hoping that a long-term groin problem will not prevent the participation of Brazilian Emerson. Equally important, Czech midfield star Pavel Nedved should have recovered from a knee injury in time for the double date with Real.

## Werder Bremen v Lyon

AFTER AN EXCELLENT Champions League group phase – the highlights being the home and away victories over Valencia – one might have expected the atmosphere in Bremen to be all sweetness and light. Not so. During a winter break training camp in Turkey, an altercation between Germany midfielder Fabian Ernst and French playmaker Johan Micoud led to the latter butting his team-mate. The pair have since made up but it remains to be seen whether they can effectively play together. Along with strikers Miroslav Klose and Ivan Klasnic, Ernst and Micoud are Werder's most influential performers.

**'Werder's defence has gone from rock-solid to porous in the space of a few months'**

Results in the early part of 2005 have been mixed. Werder were humiliated 5-1 in a friendly by Second Division Trier, unlucky to lose 2-1 at high-flying Schalke in the Bundesliga and then beat Hansa Rostock 3-2 the following week. Werder's chief area of concern is their defence, a unit that has gone from rock-solid to porous in the space of a few months. The return from long-term injury of stopper Frank Fahrenhorst, Brazilian full-back Gustavo Nery and Turkish utility man Umit Davala represents welcome news for coach Thomas Schaaf.

The club have altered their strikeforce, selling Greece striker Angelos Haristeas to Ajax and recruiting Egyptian Mohamed Zidan from Danes Midtjylland.

Lyon seem to be sailing on much less choppy waters. They lost only one game – 2-1 at Manchester United – en route to topping their Champions League group and seem set fair for a fourth consecutive French League title. A 2-1 loss to Lille in January was their first of the campaign but it did not make it any easier for the *Lyonnais* to swallow; president Jean-Michel Aulas complained long and loud that his side had been forced to play three times in a week.

Lyon stuck to the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" principle during the winter break.The only activity concerned Brazilian marksman Giovane Elber, persona non grata after travelling to Germany for an unauthorised ankle operation and allowed to leave for Borussia Monchengladbach. Lyon will not miss him. In Brazilian Nilmar and Bryan Bergougnoux they have two fine prospects.

Another Brazilian, captain and centre-back Claudio Cacapa, has been out for several months with knee ligament damage, but should be fit for the Werder tie. First-choice keeper Gregory Coupet has returned to fitness after a knee injury but central defender Eric Abidal is a concern, having already suffered knee, hamstring and thigh injuries this season.

● *1st legs – February 22/23; 2nd legs – March 8/9 (Inter v Porto, March 15)*

Up in the air...Hildebrand, in UEFA Cup action against Holland's Heerenveen, kept Stuttgart guessing about whether he would still be at the club for the spring campaign

# Timo takes his time

GERMANY

IF TIMO HILDEBRAND is to clamber over Oliver Kahn and Jens Lehmann in the national team's goalkeeping pecking order, he will have to show considerably less hesitancy on the pitch than he did in recent on-off contract negotiations with his club, Stuttgart.

After four months of haggling over a contract extension, the 25-year-old announced during the winter break that talks had broken down and that he would be leaving on a free transfer at the end of the season. The sticking point, his agent Dusan Bukovac claimed, was neither the length of the new contract (five years) on offer nor the money – he would have tripled his annual salary from £400,000 to £1.2million. Instead, it was that Stuttgart and his client could not agree on the terms of a release clause.

A large proportion of the German media were not so sure, however. For the non-believers, Hildebrand and his agent had deliberately killed the talks so the player could move at zero cost to one of his rich suitors, perhaps Liverpool, Manchester United or Arsenal, possibly Hertha Berlin or Bayern Munich.

With their outstanding young keeper about to espouse free agency, Stuttgart had no choice but to start looking for a replacement keeper, with club president Erwin Staudt hinting that Lehmann, of Arsenal, was top of the shortlist.

Yet just a fortnight after effectively handing in his notice, Hildebrand performed a dramatic volte-face, sacking his agent and pledging to remain a *Stuttgarter* until 2007. "I'm happy that all the speculation has been brought to an end," said the keeper, the fans' choice to mind the German goal at the next World Cup. "I owe a lot to Stuttgart and my heart belongs to the club. Hopefully, we can win the Bundesliga in the next couple of seasons."

Fine words, indeed. But what really brought about the change of heart? Did his mother, as some have said, bring some influence to bear? Or did he simply take heed of the advice of national coach Jurgen Klinsmann, who suggested it would be a risk to switch clubs with the World Cup finals on the horizon?

Bundesliga clubs made 34 new signings during the January transfer window, with struggling Borussia Monchengladbach by far the most active. Dissatisfied to find their team just above the relegation zone and receptive to coach Dick Advocaat's call for more quality in his squad, the Gladbach board sanctioned the acquisition of seven new faces. They included Tottenham's American keeper Kasey Keller, Australian central defender Craig Moore (Rangers), German international left-sided midfielder Jorg Bohme (Schalke), Brazilian marksman Giovane Elber

(Lyon) – all on free transfers – and Belgian striker Wesley Sonck, on loan from Ajax.

The recruitment of Sonck and Elber has its risks. The Belgian has to rebuild his confidence following a patchy 18-month spell at Ajax, during which his technique was not always up to scratch, while the Brazilian, now 32, is still recovering from the complicated leg break he suffered last summer and will not be available until the beginning of March.

True, Elber has an exceptional track record as a goalgetter in the Bundesliga: in eight seasons with Stuttgart and Bayern Munich he hit 111 goals in 219 League games. However, he does come with some baggage, namely his diva-like ways and tendency to be outspoken. Lyon could not wait to tear up the Brazilian's contract, having been angered by his disparaging remarks about the club and decision to go to Germany for an operation without their permission.

More of the same from Elber the rebel could well bring him into conflict with the Gladbach management, though for obvious reasons, Advocaat was interested only in positives on the day the striker arrived at Borussia Park, the club's magnificent new arena.

"He's a natural goalscorer, a penalty-box predator, and knows the Bundesliga like the back of his hand," said the Dutch coach. "I have the feeling he's dying to score goals in Germany again. When such a top-class player becomes available on a free transfer, you have to grab the chance."

Despite swearing they neither needed nor wanted any mid-season reinforcements, Bayern Munich decided the time was right to re-sign French international full-back Bixente Lizarazu, who had left them for Marseille only six months previously.

Both parties believe they can benefit from renewing their association. Declared surplus to requirements by new Marseille boss Philippe Troussier, Lizarazu is looking for one last challenge in a glorious career. As for Bayern, they need a better left-back than either Hasan Salihamidzic or Tobias Rau.

"Philippe Troussier did not rate me, and our relationship deteriorated badly," commented Lizarazu. "I spoke to Bayern general manager Uli Hoeness just before Christmas and was delighted when he came back and offered me a contract until the end of the season. It's as if I haven't been away. I want to help Bayern win titles, maybe all three. The next six months could be the most important of my life."

*Nick Bidwell*

# Mind games begin after Lyon lose to Lille

**FRANCE**

LYON, LEAGUE CHAMPIONS for the past three seasons, are now under increased pressure to prove themselves still the strongest in France having lost this season's 'invincibles' tag after a defeat by closest challengers Lille. The leaders' 2-1 loss on a January night of wind, rain and snow at the northerners' exposed Stadium Nord brought to an end their 21-game unbeaten run since the start of the League season and allowed Lille, the top flight's surprise package, to come within three points of top spot.

True, Lille had luck on their side and owed special thanks to their Senegalese keeper Tony Sylva, but Lyon now have to deal with the psychological boost that first League defeat may bring to their opponents while also coping with their continued presence in the Champions League.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger guided his team through an unbeaten run of 49 League games, which was ended by a 2-0 loss to Manchester United in October. He is all too aware of how the first defeat after such a long time can alter the players' mindset. "This kind of event can give a sign to opponents," Wenger said after the Lille-Lyon game. "They think: 'We can do it too.' So suddenly the way other teams play against you is different. They are more aggressive, more confident and determined. Suddenly, everything became more difficult for us."

Lyon boss Paul Le Guen did not appear too stressed after the Lille defeat, and even put a positive spin on his team's reaction. "My boys are so sad and disappointed that I am convinced they will respond positively in their next game," he said.

Sure enough, Lyon beat Rennes 2-1 at home three days later to go five points clear of Lille, held to a 1-1 draw at Nice.

But the champions are far from out of the woods and still face away trips to the three other top-five sides – Monaco, Auxerre and Marseille. "We have to be very careful in the coming weeks," warned midfielder Lamine Diatta. "Two or three poor results would condemn us to seeing Monaco, Lille, Auxerre and Marseille all coming back."

Of these teams, only Marseille are not involved in European competition. This is normally perceived to be an advantage, but can Marseille be regarded as realistic challengers? They are the footballing equivalent of an epileptic – after a period of calm, suddenly the club collapses and everything goes haywire. If it's not the chairman being sacked (Christophe Bouchet), it's the coach (Jose Anigo), and when a new manager arrives (Philippe Troussier), high-profile players leave (such as Bixente Lizarazu to Bayern Munich).

Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez still believes in the team's potential, telling *L'Equipe*: "Everyone knows that February and March are vital. We are out of the two [domestic] cups and not involved in Europe, which is not the case for the others. So the next two months will give us the opportunity to accelerate when the others are struggling for pace. And if you look at the fixture programme you will see that the big games between the title contenders are to be played during this period. Any team in the top eight can still win the title."

When Barthez made his comments, Marseille were 10 points behind Lyon with 15 games to go, and it looked a tall order for them to catch up. But with that Lyon defeat in mind, maybe it is not so far-fetched. Even some of the Lyon players have started to wonder. According to defender Anthony Reveillere: "Even Marseille can still be champions, even if Lille, Monaco and Auxerre are closer to us."

*Erik Bielderman*

**Lifting spirits...Matt Moussilou is mobbed after putting Lille 2-0 up against Lyon**

Don't look now...the doomed Fernandez watches another grim Porto performance but it all seems too much for one of his staff

# Victor the loser at Porto

PORTUGAL

VICTOR FERNANDEZ'S turbulent reign at FC Porto came to an abrupt end after just six months following a 3-1 home defeat by Sporting Braga, who had not won in Porto for 45 years. The result, which temporarily put the visitors top of the table, was the European champions' third home defeat of the season – too many for president Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa, who sacked the Spanish coach the following day.

Fernandez was Porto's second coach of the season, having replaced Italian Luigi Del Neri just after the campaign kicked off. Next in the hot seat is Jose Couceiro, who has done wonders by taking promoted Vitoria Setubal to unprecedented heights but has the tough challenge of keeping Porto in the silverware to which they have become accustomed over the past two seasons.

Fernandez expressed his disappointment, saying: "There have been a lot of changes at the club and I thought I would get more time to put together a winning side. After all, the season has not been a disaster. We are still in the title race and have made the knockout stages of the Champions League."

True, but Fernandez failed to see the bigger picture. After the glory years under Jose Mourinho, the stakes were high, maybe unreasonably so, and Porto's constant miscues at home and abroad this term started taking their toll on supporters and directors alike. By the end of January, the team had already dropped more League points than during the whole of the previous, championship-winning season and only made it into the last 16 of the Champions League thanks to a win over already-qualified Chelsea – ironically, Mourinho's new charges – in the last group game.

The public demanded more, but Fernandez was unable to deliver. His relaxed style did not go down well with players used to Mourinho's tight leash and as a result the Spaniard paid the price for the team's underachievement.

Giovanni Trapattoni appears likely to avoid the same fate at Benfica after receiving the backing of the board despite some disappointing results. These included a 2-0 home defeat by lowly Beira Mar. The fans, who do not like the Italian veteran's defensive tactics, are demanding an end to Benfica's 10-year title drought; the recent signings of midfielder Nuno Assis and striker Andrija Delibasic at least added strength to what has looked a threadbare squad.

While Porto and Benfica have been struggling, Sporting Lisbon are thriving. With Hugo Viana and Carlos Martins running the show in midfield and Liedson scoring at will, the Lions are hot favourites to win the title.

*Pedro Pinto*

SWITZERLAND

## Bankrupt Servette face demotion

Servette, once a standard-bearer of Swiss football and 17-times champions, have been declared bankrupt and now face being demoted to the inter-regional Liga 1.

The club, eighth in the 10-team top flight at the winter break, ran up debts of £6.8million after buying 21 new players. Servette gave their entire squad the chance to leave on free transfers in January having failed to pay them since October. Eleven took advantage, including former France midfielder Christian Karembeu, who has joined Bastia.

Murat Yakin, captain of champions and League leaders Basle, is under pressure to keep his starting place after the club signed his international central defensive partner, Patrick Muller, from Mallorca. Yakin has struggled with injury in recent months and last played a full game in October.

Uruguayan midfielder Richard Nunez has left Grasshopper for Atletico Madrid after rejecting the Zurich club's new deal. This would have involved a 20 per cent pay cut. Nunez hit 85 goals in 127 League games, helping them to two titles.

*Ivar von Rulach*

AUSTRIA

## Hofmann puts family before Anfield

Steffen Hofmann, captain of League leaders Rapid Wien, says he has ruled out a lucrative move to Liverpool, citing his imminent fatherhood. The 24-year-old Germany-born midfielder said: "My wife is pregnant and the baby will arrive in about a month, so

that is the focus of my attention at present, although I could have earned three or four times as much at Anfield."

Hofmann's agent, Ludwig Koegl, claimed: "Liverpool coach Rafa Benitez wants Steffen as a replacement for the departing Steven Gerrard."

Hofmann, Austria's Player of the Year for 2004, has also rejected the idea of playing for their national team, at least for now. He said: "I am not going to take out Austrian citizenship for the time being. This decision needs time, because it will have a major impact on my career."

But he did not rule out changing his mind in the future, adding: "I have been in Austria for a couple of years now and it's a great country. I could well imagine representing this country and its people on the pitch."

*Harry Miltner*

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

### Clubs gear up for North-South Cup

Cup holders Longford will meet their Northern Ireland equivalents Glentoran in the first match of the new Setanta Cup. The tournament, which features the leading clubs from either side of the border, kicks off on March 15, three days before the Republic's League season gets under way, with the Final scheduled for May 21. The winners will receive a lucrative £100,000.

Champions Shelbourne and Cork are the Republic's other representatives, with Linfield and Portadown the other Northern Ireland participants.

*Sean Creedon*

## LIECHTENSTEIN

### Vaduz add strength

Vaduz have strengthened their squad for their push for promotion to the Swiss top flight, bringing in Finnish forward Antti Pohja from Tampere United, Serbian midfielder Goran Obradovic (St Gallen) and Swiss Under-21 keeper Nicolas Beney (Wil). The club have loaned Pipo Obhafuoso to SC Kriens in a six-month deal.

Vaduz are two points behind leaders Yverdon at the halfway stage of Switzerland's Challenge League (Second Division) campaign.

*Graeme Crawford*

## BELGIUM

### Anderlecht deflated by burst ball verdict

Anderlecht's fading hopes of catching League leaders Club Brugge took a further blow when the FA's appeals committee ordered them to replay their home game against La Louviere. Anderlecht had won the November 6 clash 2-1, but the FA has now annulled that result after La Louviere protested about the nature of their opponents' first goal.

Television footage confirmed that the force of Walter Baseggio's 63rd-minute shot from the edge of the penalty area caused the ball to explode before it entered the goal. Although the referee allowed the goal to stand, La Louviere later pointed to the rule stating that a game must be stopped immediately if the ball explodes or goes flat and restarted with a new ball.

The FA rejected La Louviere's original protest, but the appeals committee reversed the verdict. The annulment meant Anderlecht went into February 12 points behind Brugge, though with two games in hand.

Coach Herman Vermeulen suffered a baptism of fire at bottom club Ostende, losing his first three games in charge since taking over from the sacked Gilbert Bodart. The third of these was a 7-3 thrashing at Brugge, who led 6-2 at half-time and for whom Philippe Clement scored the first hat-trick of his career.

Meanwhile, Mons, who had looked dead and buried earlier in the season, won three games in a row under new manager Jos Daerden to move out of the relegation zone.

Willy Reynders was another new coach to enjoy a successful start, inspiring Lokeren to win their first three games in his care. Reynders took over following the departure of Frankie Van der Elst.

*Nicholas Harling*

Three-goal feast...Philippe Clement

# Co KOs new AZ deal

Red mist...Van Galen was sent off as AZ crashed out of the Cup

## HOLLAND

CO ADRIAANSE has decided to quit while ahead, announcing he will step down as coach of AZ, this season's surprise package, in the summer.

The former Ajax boss, who took over in October 2002, turned down a new one-year deal after leading the Alkmaar club to the top of the League at the winter break. He said: "I can't do better than this. We play the best football in Holland and many of our players are now internationals."

Adriaanse's decision was no great surprise, having always said he would spend only two or three years at AZ. More unexpected was the name of his successor – Louis Van Gaal, who has agreed a three-year deal.

The former Ajax, Barcelona and Holland supremo had talked of returning to coaching after stepping down as Ajax's technical director last October, but the AZ board had not held out much hope of securing his services.

That said, Van Gaal has strong links with the club, having finished his playing career there in 1987 before becoming assistant coach.

When play resumed, AZ lost their League lead and place in the Cup in quick succession. A 1-1 home draw with NEC allowed PSV, who beat NAC 4-0, to go top. AZ then lost 3-1 at home to Feyenoord in the Cup after having Barry Van Galen and Kenneth Perez sent off.

Utrecht, Cup-winners for the past two seasons, failed to do the hat-trick after losing 2-1 to NAC after extra-time. The holders had Sander Keller and Richal Leitoe sent off as well as coach Foeke Booy.

Belgians Tom Soetaers and Wesley Sonck have been offloaded to Genk and Borussia Monchengladbach respectively after failing to make the grade at Ajax, while compatriot Thomas Buffel has left Feyenoord for Rangers.

Feyenoord coach Ruud Gullit made other changes. Song Chong-gug returned to South Korea and Ebi Smolarek went on loan to Borussia Dortmund. Newcomers include Nicky Hofs (Vitesse), Cory Gibbs (Dallas Burn) and Alexander Ostlund (Hammarby).

*Jasper Goedbloed*

# Hacken hit on Tofting

SWEDEN

PROMOTED HACKEN raised more than a few eyebrows by signing notorious Danish hardman Stig Tofting. The 35-year-old midfielder's career appeared to be over after he was sacked by his previous club, AGF Aarhus, for fighting with a team-mate at a players' Christmas party. However, Hacken have now handed the former international a lifeline in the hope that he can channel his combative spirit into ensuring his new club remain in the top flight.

Hammarby have also signed an AGF player, bringing in former Sweden midfielder Jeffrey Aybunn. However, they have lost full-back Alexander Ostlund to Feyenoord. Ostlund began as a forward and was rated as one of Sweden's most talented players when he made his debut for AIK at a mere 16. He faded from prominence after that, but has re-emerged during the past two years as a stylish right-back.

Djurgardens lost captain Andreas Johansson to Wigan in England, but snapped up highly-rated Felix Magro from Landskrona.

*Pentti Hietanen*

Last-chance saloon...Tofting has been given a lifeline in Sweden

FINLAND

## Next stop Rostock for Litmanen

National team captain Jari Litmanen ended speculation about his future by signing an 18-month contract with Germany's Hansa Rostock.

Litmanen had been a free agent for a few months since leaving FC Lahti and had been training with the reserves of former club Ajax. His name had been linked with a number of clubs, including Italy's Livorno, and to many pundits his choice of Rostock, currently struggling against relegation, was an odd one.

However, Litmanen said: "I have previously played for clubs that have been top of their leagues, so trying to help Rostock away from the relegation zone is a new and a very interesting challenge for me, as is playing in the Bundesliga."

Another international, midfielder Teemu Tainio, will join Tottenham from Auxerre in the summer on a four-year contract. Tainio has been a Spurs fan since boyhood.

Antti Pohja, top scorer in Finland last season with 16 goals, has left Tampere United for Liechtenstein's top side, Vaduz, who play in the Swiss Second Division. He joins compatriots Jussi Nuorela and Antti Sumiala.

*Pentti Hietanen*

NORWAY

## Kvisvik on top in Middle East

Midfielder Raymond Kvisvik was the standout performer during Norway's three-match Middle East tour, but the many withdrawals from the squad meant the overall benefits were limited.

Kvisvik, who played a major part in Brann Bergen's successful 2004, scored the equaliser in the opening 1-1 draw with Kuwait, though the game had descended into farce as the pitch became waterlogged. The 30-year-old then hit the only goal of the following match against Bahrain, curling in a shot from long range.

Norway dominated the final tour friendly, against Jordan, but had to settle for a goalless draw.

*Sigurd Odegaard*

ICELAND

## Gudjon goes home

Former national team boss Gudjon Thordarson has returned to Icelandic football after a five-year 'exile' in England with Stoke and Barnsley.

Thordarson, whose name had been linked since the autumn with Grindavik, sprang something of a surprise by joining their neighbours and arch-rivals Keflavik in a three-year deal.

He then caused controversy by saying coaching standards in Iceland had at best stagnated during his years abroad. The comments received a chilly response from his peers, and also serve to increase the pressure on Thordarson to maintain a remarkable record of never having finished a season in Iceland as a coach without winning at least one trophy. His silverware haul has included the Double with IA in 1993 and 1996 and the League with KA (1989) and IA (1992). He was Iceland coach from 1997 to 1999.

*Rab Christie*

ESTONIA

## Kristal calls it quits

Marko Kristal, Estonia's record cap holder with 142, has announced his international retirement. The 31-year-old midfielder's last game will be the friendly against Norway in April. Kristal made his debut in June 1992, in Estonia's first game after independence.

Tallinna VMK have broken the League transfer record with their £7,000 purchase of Erko Saviauk from Flora Tallinn, while champions Levadia Tallinn have signed veteran Estonia forward Indrek Zelinski from Frem of Denmark.

Two Estonians have joined Russians Shinnik Yaroslavl – midfielder Sergei Terehhov from Finland's FC Haka and goalkeeper Sergei Pareiko from Rotor Volgograd.

Jelle Goes, the national team's Dutch coach, has signed a contract extension, taking him up to the end of this year.

*Andres Must*

LATVIA

### Boys among men

Olimps Riga, a newly created under-23 side, are to play in the top division next season after the withdrawal of promoted Zibens/Zemessardze Ilukste.

Olimps, under former national Under-19 coach Janis Dreimanis, will field young players loaned to them by the country's top sides to give them first-team experience.

Zibens pulled out for financial reasons after failing to find a sponsor.

Two internationals have switched clubs in Russia, midfielder Andrejs Rubins joining Moscow Spartak from Shinnik Yaroslavl and goalkeeper Aleksandrs Kolinko moving to Rubin Kazan from Rostov. Rubins is now reunited with coach Aleksandrs Starkovs, who was his boss at Skonto Riga and with the national team.

Meanwhile, Latvia forward Andrejs Prohorenkovs has left Russia after only six months, returning on loan to Maccabi Tel Aviv from Dinamo Moscow. Another international, midfielder Imants Bleidelis, has joined Austria's Grazer AK from Viborg in Denmark.

Champions Skonto Riga beat their Estonian counterparts Levadia Tallinn 4-3 to lift the Livonia Cup. Skonto also won the first two editions of the one-off tie, which commemorates the historic Livonia state that used to occupy much of the land that now makes up the two Baltic countries.

*Andres Must*

WALES

### Top Marc keeps TNS ahead

The championship looks to have developed into a three-horse race, with Total Network Solutions, Caersws and champions Rhyl having broken away from the rest. TNS, the leaders by two points at the start of February, kept their two main rivals at bay by drawing with them in successive matches.

TNS are also top scorers in the League, thanks largely to Marc Lloyd-Williams. He had hit 25 of their 62 goals after 22 games and in the process became the first player to score 200 goals in the Welsh Premier League.

*Mel Thomas*

NORTHERN IRELAND

### Campbell soups up Linfield

Linfield were the only leading club to make a major signing in January, bringing in striker Shea Campbell. The 23-year-old, who had been on loan to First Division Armagh from Ballymena, scored on his debut in the 2-0 home win over Newry.

The defeat was another blow for Newry, who were expelled from the Irish Cup after beating Bangor 5-1 in the fifth round for fielding new signing Andy Crawford from Linfield before he was properly registered.

Crusaders, second bottom in the League, sacked manager Alan Dornan.

*Roy Kitson*

New club, new boss...Gravesen gets his instructions from Vanderlei Luxemburgo

# Gravesen joins the Spain drain

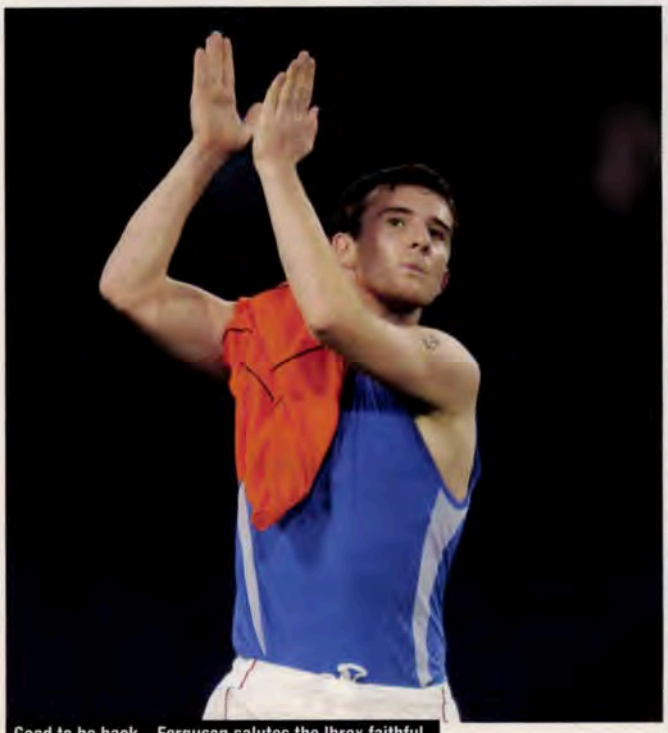
DENMARK

THOMAS GRAVESEN'S surprise move from Everton to Real Madrid was the headline Danish transfer this winter and the deal was welcomed by Denmark coach Morten Olsen, who believes it could lift the player to a new level.

In the rival Madrid colours is another Dane, winger Jesper Gronkjaer, who ended several seasons in the Premiership by joining Atletico from Birmingham.

International reserve keeper Peter Skov-Jensen has left FC Midtjylland to join Bochum in the Bundesliga. The Superliga club also cashed in on prolific striker Mohamed Zidan, who joined another German club, Werder Bremen.

*Jim Holden*


Good to be back...Ferguson salutes the Ibrox faithful

# Ferguson's happy return to Rangers

SCOTLAND

BARRY FERGUSON was delighted to return to Rangers in a £4.5million deal after an injury-plagued 18 months with Blackburn Rovers. "As soon as I knew Rangers were interested in having me back I wanted to make it happen," said the Scotland midfielder and former Rangers captain, who signed a five-and-a-half-year contract on the final day of the January transfer window. "Rangers are a huge part of my life."

Manager Alex McLeish also signed defender Sotiris Kyrgiakos from Panathinaikos to replace Jean-Alain Boumsong, now at Newcastle, and keeper Ronald Waterreus from Manchester City to replace long-term injury victim Stefan Klos. Midfielder Stephen Hughes has left for Leicester.

Celtic, three points clear of Rangers at the start of February, also made a last-minute deal, bringing in Craig Bellamy on loan until the end of the season after he fell out with Newcastle boss Graeme Souness. Bellamy replaces Henri Camara, who has moved to Southampton. Celtic's other main signing was Liverpool defender Stephane Henchoz.

New national coach Walter Smith has added former Rangers and Scotland forward Ally McCoist to his coaching staff ahead of the crucial World Cup qualifier in Italy in March.

*Alan Fairley*

# Fenerbahce put faith in Anelka

TURKEY

LEAGUE LEADERS they may be, but Fenerbahce have always performed fairly dismally in Europe. Desperate to end this failing in this season's UEFA Cup, the club went out shopping and bought French striker Nicolas Anelka.

The forward's reputation as a talented but troublesome underperformer has not daunted Fener's German coach, Christoph Daum, who said: "For me this transfer is a huge step in Fenerbahce's road to Europe. With such quality players, Fenerbahce will be able to compete on an equal footing with other European clubs."

Fener face Zaragoza in the UEFA Cup first knockout round, with the prospect of a tie against more Spanish opposition, Athletic Bilbao, or Austria Wien in the last 16.

The Istanbul club were made to sweat on the Anelka transfer as negotiations with Manchester City dragged on. But they finally got their man for £5.35million on a three-and-a-half-year contract.

Across Istanbul, Besiktas finally ended the reign of coach Vicente Del Bosque, who had been teetering on the brink for months. The final straw was Besiktas' 3-1 home defeat to Konyaspor in the domestic Cup, the club having already exited the UEFA Cup at the group stage and fallen 14 points behind Fenerbahce in the League. The former Real Madrid boss arrived last June saying he wanted to make lasting reforms over the long term, but clearly the club wanted to win a title quickly having seen the side disintegrate since taking the 2003 championship.

Del Bosque's replacement is former Besiktas player Riza Calimbay, recently in charge of Rizespor.

*Suna Erdem*

European dream...Anelka has been bought to spearhead Fener's UEFA Cup challenge

GREECE

## Critics slam points reinstatement

The three-point deduction imposed on Panionios and Olympiakos because of fan violence at their January League meeting has been revoked on appeal.

The sports appeal judges' decision to overturn the original punishment handed down by the Greek professional soccer club association has led to criticism of the authorities for being too soft on hooliganism. An editorial in influential Athens newspaper *Kathimerini* said: "The sports appeal judges' decision to impose the most lenient penalty on the two teams disappoints public opinion, because it shows the timidity of the sports leadership and its unwillingness to take radical measures to combat violence and hooliganism at soccer grounds."

The appeal judges did uphold part of the original punishment – that both teams would have to play their next four home matches behind closed doors, and that the fines of £210,000 on Olympiakos and £70,000 on Panionios would have to be paid.

The violence, which began when Olympiakos supporters without tickets suddenly broke through a barrier at the Panionios stadium and entered the stands and the pitch, caused the game to be postponed. Originally, it had been ruled that there would be no rematch, but the appeal judges also reversed this decision, though they did rule that the game would also have to be played behind closed doors.

An estimated 600 fans were involved in an on-pitch melee, during which one Panionios fan suffered serious head wounds and dozens of other supporters required first aid. Fourteen police officers were injured, one of them needing hospital treatment, but only two arrests were made.

The points reinstatement meant that Olympiakos moved to the top of the table, a point clear of Panathinaikos and AEK Athens.

*Lou Economopoulos*

SLOVENIA

## Olimpija implode

Financially-troubled Olimpija, the four-time League champions and third in the current campaign at the winter break, have been forced to advertise for lower-level players to attend trials after releasing 16 squad members from their contracts. They also face losing their League licence at the

end of the season because they are expected to go bankrupt with debts of £2.3million.

The most recent player departures included Albin Zagar, Aleksandar Popovic, Fausto Budicin, Blaz Puc, Enes Handangic and Branko Ilic, prompting Croatian coach Milivoj Bracun to put the following advert in the local papers: "Players from lower-level clubs are invited to attend trials at Olimpija."

Some clubs have even demanded that the Ljubljana club be expelled from the League immediately, though such calls may well have an ulterior motive. If Olimpija were kicked out, all their results to date would be expunged, favouring those sides who have already lost to the indebted club.

*Zdravko Reic*

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

### Istuk eyes third title

Ivo Istuk is aiming to win his third League title with a third different club after taking the reins at Zeljeznicar. The coach, who has replaced Jiri Plisek, previously won championships with Brotnjo in 2000 and Siroki Brijeg last season. Zeljeznicar are currently second in the League, two points behind Zrinjski. Istuk resigned from Siroki Brijeg in September, ironically after a defeat by Zeljeznicar.

Iljo Dominkovic is the new federation president, taking the helm as the representative of the country's Croatian entity. Representatives of the three main ethnic groupings take it in turns to head up the country's governing body.

*Zdravko Reic*

**MACEDONIA**

### Internationals make a move

Several internationals changed clubs during the winter transfer window, with Vardar defender Aleksandar Vasoski joining German promotion hopefuls Eintracht Frankfurt on a three-and-a-half-year contract, defender Goce Sedloski returning to troubled Dinamo Zagreb after just six months with Japan's Vegalta Sendai, and forward Georgi Hristov linking up with Dunfermline in Scotland on a six-month deal. Sedloski is being heralded as something of a saviour at Dinamo, who have made him captain after slipping to mid-table during the first half of Croatia's League season.

Young Lazio forward Goran Pandev was one international to miss out on a move, Barcelona rejecting his candidacy as a replacement for the injured Henrik Larsson since he does not have EU status.

On the home front, forward Goran Maznov has signed for leaders Rabotnicki Kometal after a spell in Russia, while Burhan Beadini replaced Erkan Jusuf as coach of Baskimi.

*Michel Stojmanovski*

**ISRAEL**

### Referee hit by fan

Israeli football, already suffering from an increase in fan violence, plumbed new depths when referee Assaf Keinan was struck in the face by a Bnei Sakhnin supporter after he sent off a second Sakhnin player towards the end of the home clash with Hapoel Tel Aviv. The official was taken to hospital as a precaution. Two police officers and a TV reporter were also hurt as the violence continued at the stadium, with the home fans ripping up seats and throwing them on to the pitch.

The hooliganism will do nothing to stem the worrying decline in crowd numbers, to which the League dominance of Maccabi Haifa is also a major contributant. Haifa were 19 points clear at the top with 14 games to play, meaning there is little interest in the remainder of the campaign.

*Derek Fattal*

**MALTA**

### Woods works for Wanderers

International forward Ivan Woods hit two goals in his first three games for champions Sliema Wanderers to help put them back on top of the table. The striker, signed from Pieta Hotspurs, scored the only goal of his debut game, away to St Patrick's, and then put Sliema ahead in the 1-1 draw at home to Hibernians. Sliema also beat Birkirkara 2-0 to go above Valletta.

The latter have re-signed Nigerian Chris Oretan, while Birkirkara have brought in one international goalkeeper, Saviour Darmanin, from Pieta, to replace another, the dropped Justin Haber. Birkirkara signed another international, forward Etienne Barbara, from Marsaxlokk.

*Domenico Aquilina*

Rival attraction...Kranjcar

# Kranjcar splits for Hajduk

**CROATIA**

NIKO KRANJCAR'S transfer from financially-troubled Dinamo Zagreb to arch-rivals and League leaders Hajduk Split is the most sensational in Croatia for years. The 20-year-old international, captain of Dinamo and widely hailed as the best player in the League, agreed to join the defending champions because he felt he was not valued highly enough by the capital club.

Kranjcar had been sidelined by new coach Ilija Loncarevic because of an alleged weight problem, and the final straw was apparently the insistence of Dinamo vice-president Zdravko Mamic that the midfielder accept a contract worth 20 per cent less than his current deal.

Ten thousand Hajduk fans gathered to welcome Kranjcar to Split, letting off fireworks in scenes of riotous celebration. Meanwhile, Zagreb police had to fire their guns into the air to disperse a crowd of around 100 Dinamo fans threatening to damage their home stadium in anger at the player's departure.

Even before Kranjcar's arrival, Hajduk had been favourites to retain the title, having gone into the winter break two points clear of second-placed Rijeka and eight ahead of languishing Dinamo. The Split side were further strengthened by the arrival of Bosnian Bulend Biscevic and former captain Ivan Leko.

*Zdravko Reic*

# Obilic suffer winter of discontent

**SERBIA & MONTENEGRO**

RELEGATION-THREATENED Obilic Belgrade have endured a traumatic winter, losing coach Dragoljub Bekvalac – albeit temporarily – and half the squad as the club's financial crisis began to bite.

Bekvalac stood down after just two months in charge, saying: "I couldn't see how to continue with normal work and how to keep the club in the top flight." He nor the players had received payment, prompting the mass exodus, and at one stage it even looked as if Obilic might not be able to field a team during the spring campaign. But several other clubs stepped in to loan them players – including six from leaders Partizan alone – and Bekvalac agreed to return to the helm.

Red Star, who trail Partizan by three points, will go into the spring without three key players. Keeper and captain Vladimir Disljenkovic refused to sign an extension to his contract and has joined Ukraine's Metalurh Donetsk; right-back Marjan Markovic looked poised to sit out the rest of the season after being dropped for also refusing to negotiate a contract extension; and striker Nenad Stojanovic has left for Genk in Belgium. Partizan have signed Nigerian forward Obiora Emmanuel Odita from second level Javor Ivanjica and South Korean left-back Kim Chi-woo from Incheon United.

*Vladimir Novak*

I'm off...Disljenkovic has left Red Star for Ukraine

Bye-bye Blues...Husin tussles with compatriot Andrii Voronin of Bayer Leverkusen in one of his final games for Dynamo

# Husin leaves Dynamo in 'foreign bias' row

UKRAINE

KYIV DYNAMO'S preparations for the second half of the season were dealt a major blow when international midfielder Andrii Husin walked out after claiming the club were giving preferential treatment to their foreign players.

Husin, Dynamo's most experienced player, had been expected to sign a new one-year deal after his contract expired at the end of December but he refused in protest at the alleged favouritism.

The 32-year-old claimed coach Josef Szabo had turned a blind eye to the late return of foreign players after the winter holiday and also accused him of granting them starting places for Champions League games when they had managed to avoid appearing in more mundane domestic championship matches by feigning injury.

Husin's attitude cut little ice with president Igor Surkis, who backed Szabo and asked the player to apologise publicly to the coach. Instead, the midfielder severed his ties with the club, currently a point behind leaders Shakhtar Donetsk, and went on trial to Chornomorets.

Szabo's problems mounted when Romanian midfielder Tiberiu Ghioane apparently suffered a stroke during a training camp in Portugal. His condition was said to be serious, raising doubts about whether he would play again.

Dynamo have also lost the services of international midfielder Ruslan Bidnenko and Belarus forward Sergey Kornilenko to Dnipro, veteran holding midfielder Alexander Khatskevich (Venta of Latvia) and attacking midfielder Dennis Onyschenko (Chornomorets). Only two players have arrived – 23-year-old defender Cristian Irimia from Dinamo Bucharest and Volyn's 18-year-old utility midfielder Oleg Gerasimyuk.

It was a far rosier picture at Shakhtar, who spent £8.5million on two Brazilians – midfielder Elano from Santos and Atletico Paranaense playmaker Jadson, whose team-mate Ivan also joined on a six-month loan.

Metalist have appointed former Dynamo and Juventus player Olexander Zavarov as coach. The 1980s star, who has recently been in charge of Kazakh side Zhenis, replaces Gennady Litovchenko. The latter had built an impressive reputation with Metalist but surprisingly quit and is now in charge of Second Division Arsenal Kharkiv.

*Oleg Zadernovsky*

RUSSIA

## Koloskov quits after Putin puts the boot in

Federation president Vyacheslav Koloskov has announced his resignation after almost a quarter of a century in power, citing the strong public criticism following Russia's recent international failures. The most notable of these was the humiliating 7-1 World Cup qualifying defeat by Portugal in October.

The final straw for the 63-year-old appeared to be the comment from state President Vladimir Putin that "Koloskov is a good man but a poor boss".

Koloskov's departure is likely to signal the end of the Commonwealth of Independent States Cup, the annual competition for the champion clubs of the 15 former Soviet Union republics, which he launched in 1993. The indoor tournament, held in Moscow in January, has lost its popularity with local fans and the media over recent years, and with its founding father now departed seems likely to wither away.

This year's edition was won by Lokomotiv Moscow, who beat Azerbaijan's Neftchi Baku 2-1 in the Final. But the tournament was devalued by the absence through lack of interest of last year's winners, Georgia's Dinamo Tbilisi, while the traditionally strong Kyiv Dinamo put out only a reserve side. Neftchi midfielder Vidadi Rzaev was named the tournament's best player.

*Victor Gusev*

CZECH REPUBLIC

## Bohemians face extinction

Financial problems have pushed one of Czech football's most famous names to the brink of extinction. Second Division Bohemians, founded in 1903 and League champions in 1983, have debts of £930,000 and are unable to pay players' wages. Unless new investors can be found, the Prague club are likely to have their licence revoked.

Financial worries at another capital club, Slavia, have been eased by the sale of goalkeeper Radek Cerny to Tottenham.

Jaroslav Hrebik, the new coach of League leaders Sparta Prague, has been ringing the changes, bringing in forward Miroslav Matusovic (Ostrava) and defender Michal Kadlec (Slovacko), selling Slovak internationals Vladimir Labant (Austria Wien) and Rastislav Michalik (Kayserispor), and loaning midfielder Miroslav Baranek to Mlada Boleslav.

Second-placed Teplice made one

of the winter's most interesting signings, bringing in Costa Rica striker William Sunsing. Third-placed Liberec have signed young striker Filip Dort from Chmel Blsany and Dinamo Moscow midfielder Martin Hasek, while struggling Slovacko have taken midfielder Richard Dostalek on loan from another Russian club, Kazan.

*Sam Beckwith*

ROMANIA

### Poli AEK splash out with petrol money

Poli AEK Timisoara, fuelled by the money of new owners Balkan Petroleum, have signed highly-rated National Bucharest coach Cosmin Olaroiu as well as five of his former club's players. These include international midfielders Gabriel Caramarin and Ginel Coman and goalkeeper Marius Popa.

The spree followed an injection of £1.4million by Balkan, but while the club are clearly ambitious – president Emil Rosianu has already stated his desire to bring the championship to Timisoara for the first time in more than 60 years – their first task is to avoid relegation. Poli AEK are fourth from bottom having taken only 15 points from their first 15 games and are 18 points behind leaders Steaua.

Timisoara was the first city in Europe to introduce electric street lighting, in 1884, but its football has been confined to the shadows ever since Ripensia Timisoara won the last of their four titles in 1938.

Poli AEK's raid has left third-placed National reeling, with president Gino Iorgulescu forced to defend himself for sanctioning the exodus. "I had no choice. I sold them in order to survive," Iorgulescu argued, saying that his club was severely cash-strapped.

Italian Roberto Landi has taken the coaching reins at National, who trail Steaua by five points. Ironically, the former Bologna and Piacenza goalkeeper was alerted to the vacancy by compatriot Walter Zenga, the ex-Internazionale and Italy keeper, who is currently coach of Steaua.

*Radu Timofte*

SLOVAKIA

### Goalgetters stay home

Stanislav Sestak and Roland Stevko, the top division's two leading scorers of the autumn, are to stay in the country at least until the end of the season after months of speculation over their futures.

Stevko, who has hit 11 goals for Ruzomberok this term, appeared on the verge of joining Spanish Second Division side Tenerife, but the deal fell apart at the last minute. Meanwhile, Sestak, scorer of a dozen goals for champions MSK Zilina, has agreed to join Hertha Berlin, but only from the summer. The champions have definitely lost midfielder Dusan Sninsky, to Groclin Grodzisk in Poland, after he fell out with coach Ladislav Jurkemik.

*Pavol Stracansky*

HUNGARY

### No delight in Turkey

Hungary began what coach Lothar Matthaus described as their 'decisive' year with one of the most dreary games ever played at international level, a lacklustre 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia in front of just 100 people at Istanbul's Olympic stadium.

The game, a warm-up for the crucial March World Cup qualifier at home to Bulgaria, was notable only for the fine performance of Ferencvaros keeper Lajos Szucs, the normal understudy to Crystal Palace's Gabor Kiraly.

Szucs' club side, the League leaders, have been forced to sell four players – including key midfielder Gabor Zavadszky, to Apollon Limassol in Cyprus – because of financial difficulties.

*Peterjon Cresswell*

# Richest eye more income

POLAND

POLAND'S FOUR RICHEST clubs – Wisla Krakow, Legia Warsaw, Groclin Grodzisk and Amica Wronki, the so-called G-4 – have spent the winter break flexing their muscles in a bid to extract more money from the FA in relation to the international players they provide and from a new TV deal to be signed later this year.

"The strongest clubs should receive special bonuses for their international players. We need more money for their daily activities than the others," claimed Wisla chairman Janusz Basalaj.

FA chairman Michal Listkiewicz reacted with shock to the demand, saying: "I will never allow our League to be divided into rich and poor. If four of them want money for international players, they should pay us bonuses first. For instance, last season Groclin sold Andrzej Niedzielan to [Holland's] NEC Nijmegen after he scored twice for Poland and made a great impression in a [Euro 2004] qualifier against Hungary. So, he promoted himself thanks to the national team."

The G-4 are also demanding an increased share of the new TV deal with Canal Plus as well as the chance to negotiate individual contracts with other channels.

Listkiewicz, re-elected as FA chairman for another four years in December, is taking a stand on this issue as well, saying: "We do not let anybody frighten us. The League TV rights are centralised by the Polish FA. It is in our statute. The rights can be attractive only when they involve the whole League."

*Dariusz Kurowski*

Making a case...Niedzielan

Out in the cold...Stoyanov

# Dispute means the drop for Stoyanov

BULGARIA

ILIAN STOYANOV'S contract dispute with Levski Sofia prompted national coach Hristo Stoichkov to drop him for the February friendly against Serbia & Montenegro. Stoyanov has not trained with Levski's first team for two months.

Meanwhile, Levski, second in the table on goal difference behind city rivals CSKA, signed Nigerian forward Ekundayo Jayeoba from champions Lokomotiv Plovdiv, Croatian defender Igor Tomasic (free agent) and midfielder Miroslav Ivanov (Shumen).

CSKA brought in former France midfielder Benoit Cauet on a six-month contract. The 35-year-old has been without a club since leaving Bastia at the start of the season.

Three major January deals involved South Americans, with Plovdiv signing Brazilian striker Marcelo Vava (Belasitsa) to replace Jayeoba and Litex Lovech landing Venezuela defender Alejandro Cichero (Nacional of Uruguay) and Brazilian midfielder Sandrinho (Juventude).

Rumen Dimov has retaken the reins at struggling Spartak Varna following Petar Kurdov's exit. Dimov guided them to safety last season but was replaced by Kurdov in the summer. Georgi Ivanov has succeeded Miroslav Mironov at Belasitsa, while Ognyan Ralev has taken the reins at Naftex.

*Michael Bowesfield*

# Passionate affair

Brian Homewood and Tim Vickery preview South America's vibrant premier club competition

IT DOES NOT boast the money, the slick organisation, the ultra-modern stadia or the galacticos of the UEFA Champions League. But the Libertadores Cup is less predictable, more vibrant and often more passionate than its European counterpart.

Unlike the European group stage, the Libertadores first round is still a genuine contest, with outside factors such as high altitude adding further intrigue to the mix. While European football is ever-more concentrated in the hands of a few powerful clubs, South America has gone the other way, with unsung, provincial clubs such as Once Caldas (Colombia) and Cienciano (Peru) making their mark in recent years.

The Libertadores has also managed to

Made it...Medellin booked their place by winning Colombia's opening title

Still on board...Robinho's continued presence at Santos boosts their title chances

## GROUP 1

**ATLETICO PARANAENSE**, who qualified as runners-up in the Brazilian national championship, have prepared in less than ideal fashion by offloading two key players – striker Washington, 2004 League top scorer with a record 34 goals, to Tokyo Verdy, and midfielder Jadson, one of last season's best newcomers, to Shakhtar Donetsk in Ukraine. Atletico have also lost coach Levir Culpi, to Cruzeiro. His replacement was a surprise, Casemior Miro, signed on the recommendation of none other than Luiz Felipe Scolari and who led Madeira club Nacional to a best ever fourth-place finish in the Portuguese League last season.

Atletico have a tough fight on their hands in an evenly-balanced group in which they face two Colombian opponents, **Independiente Medellin** and **America** of Cali. Both teams reached the semi-finals in 2003 and have gone through a similar transformation since. First, they cashed in by selling their top players; then they rebuilt.

Medellin qualified for this edition by winning last season's opening championship. They have brought back free-kick specialist David Montoya after an unsuccessful move to Ecuador's LDU Quito.

America are arguably the unluckiest team in the tournament's history, having reached four Finals – including three in a row during the 1980s – and lost them all. And financial constraints mean that, nowadays, their team, built around playmaker David Ferreira, largely comprises home-grown youngsters. The Red Devils made it through to the group stage after beating Venezuela's Mineros de Guayana 5-1 on aggregate in a preliminary round tie.

**'Brazilians Atletico Paranaense have a tough fight on their hands to qualify'**

Paraguay's **Libertad**, who finished as runners-up to Cerro Porteno in both the opening and closing campaigns at home, complete the group line-up. In the past few years, the club have broken Cerro Porteno and Olimpia's dominance of Paraguayan football, winning the national championship in 2002 and 2003. However, they have not managed to translate this into continental success.

## GROUP 2

**SANTOS**, WHO QUALIFIED as Brazilian champions, start as clear group favourites, although they have suffered two key losses in the close season. The first was the departure of coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo to the land of the galacticos. The other, to Shakhtar Donetsk, was 23-year-old midfielder Elano, a fixture in the team for three years, during which Santos have won two Brazilian titles.

The good news is that the club have managed to hold on to Robinho for another six months as they attempt to go one better than 2003, when they finished as runners-up to Boca Juniors. Santos are now under coach Oswaldo de Oliveira, who also took over from Luxemburgo at Corinthians in 1998.

**'Coach Oliveira replaced Luxemburgo at Corinthians and now Santos'**

Ecuador's **LDU Quito**, who looked set to overcome Uruguay's **Penarol** in their preliminary tie after winning the first leg 3-0, have an intriguing midfield, with 36-year-old ex-Ecuador captain Alex Aguinaga lining up with 32-year-old Peru regular Roberto Palacios. With the slippery Franklin Salas in attack and Ecuadorean international Edison Mendez, a new signing, adding bite in midfield, LDU could go far.

Penarol's compatriots **Danubio** were automatic qualifiers for the group stage, having won last year's Uruguayan championship. That was a major achievement since their squad, led by coach Gerardo Pelusso, largely comprises journeymen.

**Bolivar** became the first Bolivian team to reach a continental club Final last year when finishing runners-up to Boca Juniors in the Sudamericana Cup. Coach Vladimir Soria is a former international midfielder, while the squad still includes veteran defensive pairing Oscar Sanchez and Marco Sandy, nippy left-back Percy Colque and Brazilian goalkeeper Mauro Machado.

Argentinian striker Horacio Chiorazzo has moved to Ecuador's Aucas while chubby-faced midfielder Limberg Gutierrez refused to take a wage cut and has asked for a transfer. The key reinforcements are lumbering striker Augusto Andaveris from Oriente Petrolero and Argentinian midfielder Christian Zermatten, from arch-rivals The Strongest. Bolivar are by no means walkovers, especially as they play their home games in La Paz at 12,500 feet above sea level.

maintain a certain mystique lost to Europe, where all the stadia look alike. In South America, fans still stand behind the goal, throw toilet rolls and firecrackers on to the pitch before the game and jump up and down for the whole 90 minutes.

This is a welcome contrast to the theatre-like atmosphere at many European venues. A trip to Boca Juniors' Bombonera stadium, for example, still inspires the same sort of trepidation as a visit behind the Iron Curtain might have done 20 years ago for western European clubs.

On the other hand, the Libertadores is no longer the free-for-all it used to be. The days when players sharpened their wedding rings or hordes of fans spent the night before a game making a din outside the visiting team's hotel have, more or less, been consigned to the past.

As part of its clean-up, the South American confederation has this year introduced fines for home teams when matches kick off late and has made it compulsory for both teams to attend the ceremony at the end of the Final. This is designed to avoid a repetition of the undignified scenes at the end of the 2002 Final, when Olimpia president Oswaldo Dominguez Dibb snatched the trophy before it had been presented to his team captain, and last year, when losers Boca Juniors sulked off the pitch without receiving their medals.

● *See World Service for full match schedule.*

Silver lining...Universidad de Chile won the opening title but are in financial straits

Saver and scorer...Tachira keeper Rafael Dudamel is also a free-kick specialist

## GROUP 3

THE DRAW HAS been kind to **Sao Paulo**, who face financially-troubled Universidad de Chile, Bolivia's The Strongest, who rarely live up to their name in continental competition, and Argentina's Quilmes, who have little continental experience.

The Brazilian side won the Libertadores in 1992 and 1993 with a memorable team, and while the current side is not in the same category, any outfit under coach Emerson Leao has to be taken seriously.

Leao, who has substituted his orange dyed hair for a strange whitish colour, led Santos to the Final two years ago and since his ill-fated outing with Brazil in 2000-01, has won himself a reputation as an uncoverer of talents. His latest prodigy is forward Diego Tardelli, whose nocturnal habits have got him into repeated trouble in the past but is now flourishing under Leao.

Sao Paulo, who qualified by finishing third in the Brazilian championship, reached the Libertadores semi-finals last year and should have little trouble getting to the second round. Other key players are goalkeeper-cum-free-kick specialist Rogerio Ceni and World Cup reserve left-back Junior, who has overcome his initial differences with Leao.

**Universidad de Chile** won the Chilean opening championship last year but are deep in financial difficulties. The club have been threatened with closure by the Labour Ministry for failing to pay their employees on time, and, not surprisingly, have not been able to make any big signings.

**The Strongest** qualified by winning Bolivia's closing championship last year. Like neighbours Bolivar, in Group 2, the Tigers' trump card lies in the fact they are based in La Paz, at 12,500 feet above sea level.

**Quilmes**, whose best known player is 36-year-old former Argentina defender Nelson Vivas, reached the group stage after an away goals victory over Chile's Colo Colo in the preliminary round. Quilmes made it into the Libertadores reckoning thanks to their overall record in the 2003-04 season in Argentina.

**'The trump card for The Strongest is that they are based in La Paz, 12,500 feet above sea level'**

## GROUP 4

IT WOULD TAKE a brave man to try and predict the two qualifiers from this group. In theory, Brazil's Palmeiras look to be slight favourites. Cerro Porteno, one of the Paraguayan big two alongside Olimpia, return to the competition after surprisingly missing out last year, while Deportivo Tachira, no doubt given confidence by the Venezuelan national side's recent exploits, knocked out Argentina's Velez Sarsfield and Nacional of Uruguay on their way to the last eight last year. **Santo Andre**, who qualified as Copa Brasil winners, are an unknown quantity as they play in the Brazilian Second Division.

**'Santo Andre are an unknown quantity as they play in Brazil's Second Division'**

**Palmeiras**, Libertadores winners in 1999 and runners-up in 2000, are back in the fray after a three-year absence during which they even spent a year in the Brazilian Second Division. A fourth-placed finish in their first season back in the top flight gave Palmeiras the fifth Brazilian spot, exceeding their own fans' expectations. They reached the Libertadores group stage after beating Paraguay's Tacuary 4-2 on aggregate in the preliminary round. Palmeiras have kept the base of last year's team, including coach Estevam Soares, who took over last June. Brazil's World Cup goalkeeper Marcos is the only survivor from the 1999 team and there have been no big-name signings. Instead, the club have brought in little-known youngsters such as Parana pair Cristian and Marcel.

**Cerro Porteno** dominated the Paraguayan championship last year, winning both the opening and closing titles, and took Boca Juniors to a penalty shoot-out in their Sudamericana Cup quarter-final. The club are now under Argentinian coach Gustavo Costas, who last year led Alianza Lima to the Peruvian title.

Last year, **Tachira** became only the second Venezuelan club to reach the last eight in Libertadores history. They are under the same coach, Cesar Farias, and have re-signed Alex Rondon, their leading scorer in 2004, after he spent a miserable six months in Brazil with Sao Paulo. Other new arrivals are veteran midfielder Stalin Rivas and Venezuelan international keeper Rafael Dudamel, also a free-kick and penalty specialist.

Looking for form...Marcelo Salas has underperformed for River Plate

Argentinian influence...Walter Gaitan (right) has many compatriots at Tigres

## GROUP 5

WATCHING BOCA JUNIORS' domination of the Libertadores has not been easy for great rivals **River Plate**, and winning the competition for a third time has become something of an obsession for the club. But Leo Astrada's men will certainly have to show a marked improvement if they are to achieve their objective.

Performances have been undermined by the constant sale of players to Europe. Maxi Lopez is the latest departure, to Barcelona, and midfielders Javier Mascherano and Lucho Gonzalez are also set to move after the campaign. Former heroes Marcelo Gallardo and especially Marcelo Salas have not done as well as expected on their return and need to find form and fitness. Ernesto Farias, a prolific goalscorer in Argentinian football before his move to Italy, has been repatriated by River after failing to settle in Europe.

At least River have a relatively easy group. The biggest threat would seem likely to come from **Nacional** of Montevideo. The Uruguayans have plenty of attacking resources, with dangerous strikers Alex Medina and Sebastian Abreu, the wonderful passing ability of playmaker Martin Liguera and sleek left-sided midfielder Gonzalo Castro. There could be some defensive problems, though, for new coach Martin Laserte to resolve.

**'Nacional of Montevideo have plenty of attacking resources, including dangerous strikers Alex Medina and Sebastian Abreu'**

**Olmedo** were surprise qualifiers from Ecuador, and their appearance in the knockout stages would be even more of a surprise. The team from Riobamba have reinforced their attack with veteran striker Eduardo Hurtado and badly need him to inspire them to an opening night win at home to River Plate. Their next two fixtures are tricky away ties, and without a dream start they may quickly find themselves out of contention.

The group will be completed by either Colombia's **Atletico Junior** or **Oriente Petrolero** from Bolivia. The former rely on the midfield thrust of one-time Boca Juniors hope Omar Perez and the power of burly striker Martin Arzuaga. But their defending in the air is atrocious. The Bolivians build their side around the refined skills of Erwin 'Platini' Sanchez, who has made a remarkable playing comeback after retiring to coach Boavista of Portugal.

## GROUP 6

THERE ARE TWO debutants in the most open group in the field. **Banfield** are a traditional but small club from Buenos Aires who owe their appearance to a sound run of form under coach Julio Falcioni. They suffer, though, from the fact that Argentinian qualification is sealed so far in advance – in this case for performances in 2003-04. Since that season, Banfield have lost highly promising forward Rodrigo Palacios to Boca Juniors.

Uruguayan striker Victor Piriz Alvez will be expected to supply Banfield's goals, with his pace likely to prove especially important on the break.

**'Uruguayan striker Piriz Alvez will be expected to supply Banfield's goals, with his pace especially important on the break'**

The Argentinians face three long trips, the furthest taking them to the north of Mexico to face **Tigres**, the other first-timers. The clashes will be something of a reunion. The Tigres side, the slight favourites to win the group, is full of well-known Argentinians (including keeper Gustavo Campagnuolo, attacking midfielder Walter Gaitan and striker Andres Silvera). Coach Leonardo Alvarez can also count on Brazilian forward Irenio and one-time great Chilean hope Claudio Nunez. The defence is organised by Mexican legend Claudio Suarez.

Peruvian champions **Alianza Lima**, deep in financial trouble, no doubt look wistfully to Europe, where former players Jefferson Farfan and Paolo Guerrero, products of their youth development scheme, now score their goals. Alianza failed even to hold on to their coach – Argentinian Gustavo Costas, to Cerro Porteno of Paraguay – and now have his compatriot Ruben Dario Insua at the helm. Insua took Barcelona of Ecuador to the 1998 Libertadores Final. A repeat with Alianza looks unlikely, despite the presence of promising youngsters Junior Viza and Juan Gonzalez-Vigil and a solid base of Peruvian internationals – Jose Soto, Marco Ciurlizza and Flavio Maestri.

The group's other side, **Caracas** of Venezuela, could prove one of the most interesting in the competition. Last year, coach Noel Sanvicente's men did well in a difficult group. Now, with Rafael Castellin and Daniel Noriega plus Colombian acquisition Wilson Carpintero they should be able to add penetration to their neat possession. A place in the knockout phase should be within reach.

I'm back...playmaker Adolfo Valentierra has returned to holders Once Caldas

Better mix?...Martin Palermo may get a strike partner more suited to his needs

## GROUP 7

PROVINCIAL COLOMBIAN SIDE **Once Caldas** won last year's Libertadores and were only a penalty away from lifting the World Club Cup against FC Porto in December. Now it will be fascinating to see if the men from Manizales can build on their success. They are, of course, without coach Luis Fernando Montoya, still fighting for his life after being shot recently. He is replaced by Victor Luna, who led Independiente Medellin to the Libertadores semi-finals in 2003. Outstanding in that team was versatile striker Tressor Moreno, who has joined Luna at Once Caldas. Another new arrival is veteran Ecuador keeper Jose Cevallos, back in action after a long injury lay-off. Cevallos replaces the acrobatic Juan Carlos Henao, now at Santos in Brazil. Last year's other star, playmaker Adolfo Valentierra, is back at the club after six months in Saudi Arabia.

Luna is unlikely to depart from the cautious, controlled football that worked so well for Montoya. But he has a tough job ahead of him since the reigning champions have been drawn in one of the most difficult groups.

**San Lorenzo** are the only major Buenos Aires club never to have won the title, but they have the resources to mount a challenge this year. High-profile coach Hector Viera can count on a very promising collection of young players and has also added the experience of feisty midfielder Eduardo Coudet, playmaker Mariano Messera and powerful Colombian striker Leonardo Moreno. Defence is not San Lorenzo's strong point, so much will depend on how well the attack performs.

Nobody will relish the trip to face Chilean champions **Cobreloa** in the inhospitable Calama desert. The Desert Foxes' stadium is small and cramped, and sirens wail whenever the home side attack. Cobreloa are coached by wily Uruguay-born Nelson Acosta, who has brought back old favourite striker Fernando Martel from Mexico to replace last year's top scorer Patricio Galaz.

**'Nobody will relish the trip to Cobreloa's stadium. It is small and cramped, and sirens wail whenever the home side attack'**

The group's other side are Mexico's **Guadalajara**, who beat Cienciano of Peru 8-2 on aggregate in the preliminary round. Coach Benjamin Galindo has a squad rich in attacking options, with the forwards supported by the flank play of Ramon Morales and Rafael Medina.

## GROUP 8

**BOCA JUNIORS** MAY be in a transitional phase after the victorious era of coach Carlos Bianchi, but they remain the team to beat. The Buenos Aires side have made it to four of the last five Libertadores Finals, winning three, and look well equipped to continue the run.

Club stalwart Jorge 'Chino' Benitez did well enough as a stand-in coach to have his appointment made permanent, and though he has lost Carlos Tevez, he has also freed himself of a problem. In their different styles both Tevez and Martin Palermo were centre-forwards. Now, Palermo can be paired with a partner who suits him better; both the excellent acquisition Rodrigo Palacios and the returning Marcelo Delgado do their best work down the flanks.

**'The spine of Boca's side is ageing and could need replacing during the tournament'**

Boca lack a playmaker and are hurriedly trying to sign the Colombian Giovanny Hernandez, with Guillermo Marino of Newell's Old Boys another option. Meanwhile, the club's latest crop of youngsters may have to grow up quickly, since the spine of the side – Rolando Schiavi, Alfredo Cascini, Diego Cagna, Guillermo Barros Schelotto – is ageing and could need replacing during the tournament.

Boca have three long flights north, with the longest likely to be the trickiest. **Pachuca**, Mexico's oldest club, will provide stiff opposition despite being Libertadores debutants. Coach Alfredo Tena has a squad as good as any in the competition: Colombia's first-choice keeper Miguel Calero is protected by the rugged Manuel Vidrio and Ecuador's captain Ivan Hurtado, while up front Jared Borgetti provides a splendid spearhead, supported by bright Colombian winger Andres Chitiva. Paraguay's Nelson Cuevas is another interesting acquisition.

Peru's **Sporting Cristal** were runners-up in 1997, but are unlikely to do anything similar this year. Argentinian coach Eduardo Bauza usually produces attractive sides, but the loss of Juan Cominges to Argentina leaves him short on attacking options. Veteran Jorge Soto and Gustavo Figueroa, a new signing from Ecuador, will be expected to work the flanks and supply the dangerous Luis Bonet.

The group is completed by Ecuador's surprise champions **Deportivo Cuenca**, back for the first time since 1977. Argentinian coach Julio Assad has crafted a workmanlike side and also made a shrewd choice of reinforcements, but the knockout stages look a long way off.

# Wait for it, Tevez

BRAZIL

AFTER SEVERAL false starts, Corinthians' £9.5million signing Carlos Tevez – the most expensive transfer between two South American clubs – finally made his debut in a 1-0 win over America-Sao Jose do Rio Preto in the Paulista championship.

The Argentina striker came on to the pitch for a rapturous reception before the opening game of the season against Mogi Mirim but then watched the action from the stands because he was not match fit. Corinthians, fielding virtually the same team that stuttered through last season, slumped to a 2-1 defeat.

An insect bite and some red tape then kept 'Carlitos' out of the next two games. The 20-year-old spent two days in hospital after a bite on his right leg became infected – reports variously said the culprit was an ant or a mosquito – at the team's training camp.

Having recovered, it then transpired his former club, Boca Juniors, had still not sent all the necessary documents relating to the transfer. The paperwork was finally cleared up less than 24 hours before kick-off against America. In the meantime, Corinthians had lost 1-0 to Marilia and beaten Atletico Sorocaba 1-0.

Carlos Alberto, signed for £4.8m from European champions Porto, also made his debut against America but it was a player raised at the club, right-back Coelho, who scored the winner from the penalty spot.

Meanwhile, Argentinian defender Sebastian Dominguez, the other major signing, from Argentina's opening champions Newell's Old Boys, had to return home to sort out his work permit at the Brazilian consulate in Buenos Aires.

Despite their new acquisitions, Corinthians were far from the team of 'new galacticos' that had been promised when the shadowy London-based group Media Sports Investments signed a 10-year deal with the club at the end of December.

An attempt to repatriate Vagner Love from CSKA Moscow fell through after the Russians upped the price to £10m. Corinthians also failed to lure River Plate midfielder Javier Mascherano and Santos forward Robinho, who had both been virtually promised to the supporters during the jubilant celebrations that followed the MSI deal.

Love was left to eat some humble pie after spouting off to Brazilian television before his move fell through. "The Russians are just going to have to understand that I'm not going back," he said. "I'm fed up with the cold and I don't want my two-month-old son suffering in the Russian winter."

Carlos Alberto was equally uncomplimentary about Portugal after cutting short his Porto contract. "Portugal's an egg," he sneered. "The Corinthians support is bigger than their entire population." Perhaps he forgot that he once played before a crowd of 1,000 during his time with Fluminense or that Corinthians, who claim to have 25 million fans, had an average attendance last year of under 14,000.

Sao Paulo, whose new signings included former futsal player Falcao, were the early Paulista leaders after winning their first four games. The 20 teams play each other once in a conventional league system.

Over in Rio de Janeiro, where the Carioca championship stuck to the tradition of complex formulas, Flamengo made a disastrous start, losing three of their first four games, all against so-called small teams – Cabofriense, Olaria and Americano. Coach Julio Cesar Leal paid the inevitable price.

*Brian Homewood*

New boy in Brazil...Carlos Tevez makes his delayed debut for Corinthians against America

Disheartened...Ramiro Blacut

# Messa must sort out the shambles

BOLIVIA

BOLIVIA, bottom of the South American World Cup qualifying group, moved on to their third coach of the campaign when veteran Ramiro Blacut walked out and was replaced by former international Ovidio Messa.

Blacut, in his third stint in the job, had become fed up with the incessant in-fighting between the federation, the League and the leading clubs.

The 60-year-old said the clubs had been consistently difficult over releasing players for training camps and friendlies, notably for last September's World Cup qualifier away to Brazil.

"They refused to release their players 10 days before the game, their argument being that there was no point in having so much time to prepare if we were going to lose anyway," he said.

"I didn't bank on all this. Our football has declined in the past five years. I believed that the national team could be improved but I was wrong. There are very few people in the country who want to play football; they're more interested in fighting for power and the financial side. That's why the football's getting worse and worse. The national team is downtrodden and maltreated."

This is the scenario facing Messa, 51, who has given up a job with the Alicante city government in Spain, where he coaches teenagers, in an attempt to get Bolivia out of their fix.

*Brian Homewood*

# Penarol flirt with danger in salvage operation

**URUGUAY**

PENAROL, who had apparently salvaged their season by winning the tournament to decide the third Uruguayan representatives in the Libertadores Cup, proceeded to lose the first leg of their preliminary round tie against LDU Quito of Ecuador 3-0. Their likely exit added to their disappointment of finishing only fifth in both the opening and closing Uruguayan championships.

Danubio, the overall champions, and runners-up Nacional took the first two Libertadores places but rather than simply hand the other place to the third-best team overall, Defensor Sporting, the federation held an eight-team tournament known as the *Liguilla* at the start of January.

Diego Aguirre had already resigned as Penarol coach after they failed to reach the 2004 Final, leaving only three weeks to find a replacement. The first choice was widely-travelled Luis Garisto, but he pulled out at the last minute. Finally, Penarol settled on a former hero, 53-year-old Fernando Morena, three-times Libertadores top scorer during his playing days with the club.

Penarol steamrollered past Tacuarembo, Cerrito and finally Defensor to make sure of their Libertadores place amid furious protests about the refereeing from their opponents.

Liverpool president Jose Luis Palma, whose team lost to Cerrito in the first round, claimed the tournament was weighted in Penarol's favour. "The competition should have been played at the end of the year but it suited Penarol to hold it in January, when their new coach had taken over," he said.

● ECUADOR and CHILE have given their championships new formats this season. Ecuador, who previously had one championship a year, have gone the way of most Latin American countries and split the season into opening and closing tournaments.

Chile have had a bizarre format for the past three seasons, under which it was possible for a team to finish bottom of their group, lose their second round knockout tie and still get to the Final. The 16 teams were divided into groups of four; the top two in each went through along with the three best third-placed teams and the winner of a play-off between the worst third-placed and best last-placed teams. The second round consisted of six home-and-away ties which sent the winners plus the two 'best losers' into the last eight.

Now the authorities seem to have seen some sense. The teams, now increased to 20, are still split into four groups. But only the top two from each go into quarter-finals and from then on it is a straightforward knockout contest.

*Brian Homewood*

Old boy, new shirt...former Argentina midfielder Diego Simeone is welcomed to Racing Club by president Fernando Marin

# Return of the golden oldies

**ARGENTINA**

THE TREND HAS continued towards repatriating veterans as Argentina's young talent sets sail. In place of the likes of Carlos Tevez (Boca to Corinthians), Maxi Lopez (River Plate to Barcelona), Sebastian Dominguez (Newell's Old Boys to Corinthians) and Leandro Romagnoli (San Lorenzo to Wolfsburg) are golden oldies such as Diego Simeone, Claudio Ubeda and Gerardo Bedoya (all to Racing), Horacio Ameli (River Plate), Jose Chamot (Rosario Central) and Juan Esnaider (Newell's).

Admittedly, the returning oldsters come relatively cheap, but few of them actually deliver because their best days are over and they are also prone to injury. Of a similar influx last year, only Martin Palermo (Boca) and Ariel Ortega (Newell's) made a memorable contribution.

Boca boss Jorge Benitez has made a stand against his own president, Mauricio Macri, over the use of foreign players at the expense of homegrown talent.

Benitez's most pressing need is for an attacking midfielder but put his foot down when Macri was about to sign Swiss Hakan Yakin. "If you can't get me a local player, I don't want anybody," insisted the coach.

Boca have acquired 22 foreigners in eight years under Macri, who is conscious of the merchandising potential of such signings in the players' home countries. But apart from five Colombians – Oscar Cordoba, Jorge Bermudez, Chicho Serna, Fabian Vargas and Luis Perea – few have made the grade. Last year Boca acquired Brazilian defender Bahiano, and though he secured a first-team place it was at the expense of the promising Pablo Jerez, a junior team product.

The country's traditional summer tournament, which this year featured five of the biggest clubs – River Plate, Boca Juniors, San Lorenzo, Racing Club and Independiente – came in for criticism for interrupting preparations for the closing championship.

Cesar Menotti, new coach of Independiente, said: "With all the travelling involved and all the new players it makes proper preparation impossible." The club's veteran goalkeeper, Carlos Navarro Montoya, added: "It is unhealthy to expect players to play in a big match only three days after returning from holiday. People cannot expect the best from us under these conditions."

San Lorenzo won this year's event unbeaten and despite having five players absent because of South America's Under-20 Championship, though none of the other sides were at full strength. The River Plate-Racing Club match was suspended after smoke bombs were thrown on to the field by Racing hooligans, furious at the club's refusal to give them free tickets.

*Eric Weil*

Late call...DaMarcus Beasley was one of several Europe-based players needed in a hurry for the first final phase World Cup qualifier

# Players back in the fold for now

UNITED STATES

FOR DUSTY HUDOCK, Peter Lusak, John Wilson, Jacob Coggins and 19 other minor league players the dream of international football glory lasted one week.

The group of mightabeens, shouldabeens and wannabes were called into the US senior national team training camp as 'replacements' when the federation got into a cash dispute with the 70-member national team players' union. But after just six days training under coach Bruce Arena the replacements were sent home.

The USSF and the union, with the help of a mediator, had settled their dispute, and the 'real' players were on their way to the camp.

So who won the struggle? As usual, it depends on the point of view. The union said the USSF had backed down and ended the lockout. The USSF said the players had backed down and agreed a no-strike deal during 2005.

But the two sides remain far apart on the money issue, with the USSF offering some £7.5million in payments and bonuses for the 2006 World Cup cycle, but the players demanding £11.8m. The real discussions will have to wait for a year while the qualifying process proceeds.

"It's a relief," said Arena, "but obviously we're behind in our preparation. We have a lot of hard work ahead."

The coach's immediate problem was that all the 28 players called in at the last moment were from MLS clubs, none of which has played a game since last November. With little more than two weeks before the first final phase World Cup qualifier, against Trinidad & Tobago in Port-of-Spain, it was clear he would have to call in – at an even later stage – a core of players from European clubs.

They included all three top goalkeepers – Tim Howard (Manchester United), Brad Friedel (Blackburn) and Kasey Keller (Borussia Monchengladbach), and the two most important attacking players, DaMarcus Beasley (PSV Eindhoven) and Landon Donovan (Bayer Leverkusen).

But midfield posed problems for Arena. One key Europe-based player was not available – playmaker and captain Claudio Reyna (Manchester City), still recovering from a long-term leg injury. John O'Brien (Ajax) had only recently resumed playing after an injury, Chris Armas (Chicago Fire), the team's Mr Reliable holding midfielder, was also on the recovery list, from knee surgery, while his replacement, Kerry Zavagnin (Kansas City Wizards) was in England, trying to secure a contract with a Premiership or Championship side.

*Paul Gardner*

# Fonseca straight in the groove at Cruz

MEXICO

MONTERREY must be sick of the sight of Francisco Fonseca. He scored the third of Pumas UNAM's goals in their 3-1 opening championship Final win over Monterrey in December, then hit a hat-trick against them for his new club, Cruz Azul, at the start of the closing campaign. Cruz Azul won 6-1, giving them the only 100 per cent record after three rounds.

Fonseca also scored in the previous match, a 3-1 win over Jaguares, and has formed a potent strikeforce with Argentinian Cesar Delgado.

Coach Ricardo Ferreti made a good start at Atletico Morelia, beating Pachuca 1-0 and Toluca, the club he had just left, by the same scoreline before drawing 1-1 at Veracruz.

New man at the Toluca helm is former national coach Enrique Meza, who has been out of circulation since losing the Mexico job in 2001.

*Carlos Ramirez*

Hot streak...Francisco Fonseca

On his way...Ali Zitouni has been loaned to Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates

# Esperance duo head for the Middle East

## NORTH AFRICA

TUNISIAN champions Esperance have loaned captain Khaled Badra to Al Khorayteyyat in Qatar and national team striker Ali Zitouni to Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates. Etoile Sahel have appointed Ammar Souayah as their third coach of the season. Ali Boumnijel, the veteran Tunisia goalkeeper, has signed for Club Africain. Brazilian coach Paolo Rubim has returned to Tunisia to take charge of CA Bizerte.

Jawad Milani's long run in charge of MOROCCAN club Olympique Khourigba has ended with the club near the foot of the table.

## CENTRAL AFRICA

Artur Jorge is the new coach of CAMEROON and will be assisted by fellow Portuguese Raul Aguas, ex-Cameroon striker Patrick Mboma and former French tennis star Yannick Noah. Jorge replaces German Winfried Schafer, who was fired last year.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

Former Sao Tome e Principe boss Jose Ferraz has taken over at ANGOLA'S Progresso Sambizanga. The club have also made a player signing, Jose Celino returning from Benfica. Brazilian Arthur Bernandes has taken over as coach of Petro Luanda, who have brought back international Bodunha, also from Portugal.

Former MOZAMBIQUE captain Chinquinho Conde has returned home to coach at Maputo club Maxaquene.

Angelo Cappa has taken over at SOUTH AFRICA'S Mamelodi Sundowns. The Argentinian was formerly an assistant coach at Real Madrid.

Ex-international defender Aggrey Chiyangi has replaced Ben Bamfuchile as coach of ZAMBIA'S Power Dynamos. Bamfuchile is now assistant to national coach Kalusha Bwalya.

## WEST AFRICA

Ivica Todorov has been dismissed as BURKINA FASO coach after seven months and succeeded by Frenchman Bernard Simondi.

Swedish coach Stellan Danielsson has taken over from Frenchman Georges Tripp at SENEGALESE champions AS Douanes.

*Mark Gleeson*

## OCEANIA

### McMahon finds Glory

AUSTRALIAN champions Perth Glory have appointed former Liverpool and England midfielder Steve McMahon as coach ahead of the inaugural A League campaign. Although McMahon won numerous honours during his playing career, his managerial record is patchy. He did win silverware while at Swindon and Blackpool but was hampered by financial constraints at both, and quit after the clubs fell into the doldrums. The purse strings will be looser in Perth, though McMahon may find the new League's salary cap a frustration. His assistant is Mich d'Avray, who steered Glory to titles in the old National Soccer League's final two seasons.

FIJI'S recently inaugurated National Club League has been plunged into crisis by the withdrawals of Navua and Suva. Navua pulled out in protest at not receiving FA backing for walking off when supporters of hosts Ba became unruly. The FA awarded Ba victory, even though it said Ba had failed to control their fans properly and ordered a future home match to be staged on neutral territory. Suva pulled out after being barred from postponing a League game to allow their players to turn out for feeder clubs in the capital's own competition.

The OCEANIA UNDER-20 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL was abandoned after 77 minutes because of crowd trouble, with Australia leading hosts Solomon Islands 3-0. Fans who did not have tickets for the game lobbed stones and bottles on those inside the ground, causing them to spill on to the pitch.

Auckland City held a three-point lead over neighbours Waitakere United at the top of the League in NEW ZEALAND at the start of February. United have suffered a spate of injuries, most notably to Danny Hay, the former Leeds defender.

*Paul Moon*

New man...McMahon is taking charge in Perth

# Singapore end Withe's reign

**TIGER CUP**

PETER WITHE'S HOLD over the Tiger Cup has been broken, the former Aston Villa striker looking on as his Indonesia side succumbed 5-2 on aggregate to Singapore in the Final of the South-east Asian tournament.

Withe had won the 2000 and 2002 events during his time of unprecedented success at the helm of Thailand, also guiding the nation to the gold medal at the South-east Asian Games and to a place in the finals of the Asian Cup in Lebanon.

But his Indonesian charges lost this year's Final first leg 3-1 in Jakarta and the return in Singapore 2-1, thus preventing the coach achieving a third consecutive triumph.

"I told the players afterwards that they should not be ashamed by what happened in the Final," said Withe. "They were a credit to themselves, especially with the problems that we had with injuries and suspensions.

"What they did in this tournament was remarkable because we did not have a long period of preparation. The players even had to go back to their clubs for three important League matches after the Tiger Cup group stage."

Indonesia, who have consistently failed to harness the potential of their huge population and appetite for the game, had hoped that the appointment of Withe would finally bring them the Tiger trophy. They finished runners-up in the two previous editions, but have never won the tournament, which was launched in 1996.

Sentiment was also running high in the country following the Indian Ocean tsunami, which killed more than 200,000 people in the Indonesian province of Aceh. But the national team could not get higher than runners-up place on the podium.

Singapore won in Jakarta thanks to goals from former Wrexham defender Daniel Bennett, Khairul Amri and Agu Casmir. Mahyadi Panggadean pulled one back in injury-time, but further goals from Indra Sahdan Daud and Casmir in the second leg guaranteed Singapore the title before Eli Aiboy claimed a late consolation at Singapore's sold-out National stadium.

"Nobody gave us a chance of winning before the tournament but we've done it thanks to the hard work of the players throughout the eight games we have played in the Tiger Cup," said Singapore coach Raddy Avramovic.

"I was not surprised by our performance because I always believed we could make it to the Final, and the players knew that. However, it took teamwork to win the Cup and we now have every right to celebrate this fine victory."

The Singaporeans are hoping they can build on the success having failed to do so after their previous Tiger Cup win in 1998. "We had a few years without any real success, so winning the Tiger Cup was a massive boost for everyone," said Avramovic. "It shows that Singapore can achieve good results. The team was trying and fighting for 90 minutes and the fans came out to support us.

"Our triumph should have a good effect on the S-League and I'm sure many more players would now like to play for the national team.

"I'm hoping it will mean more players try harder to be fit and responsible in the game because this team showed great discipline and will to win. That's the only way things will improve for the clubs and the national team as well."

Thailand, Withe's former charges, have been struggling without him, the three-times champions failing to progress from the group stages for the first time in the competition's history.

*Michael Church*

**Backing down...Singapore goalkeeper Lionel Lewis comes under pressure from Indonesia's Ilham Jaya Kasuma during the first leg of the Tiger Cup Final in Jakarta**

## ROUND-UP

Up for selection...Al-Jaber

FORMER Wolverhampton striker Sami Al-Jaber has been lured out of international retirement by SAUDI ARABIA. Al-Jaber, who has been in fine form with Riyadh's Al Hilal this season, was included in Gabriel Calderon's squad for the World Cup qualifier against Uzbekistan, the first time he has been selected since the 2002 World Cup finals. Al Hilal currently lead the Saudi standings and recently handed Asian champions Al Ittihad a 4-2 defeat.

UZBEKISTAN have appointed German Hans Jurgen Gede as national team coach. Gede, who previously worked as the country's technical director, replaces Ravshan Haydarov, now in charge of the Olympic team.

Striker Le Cong Vinh has won VIETNAM'S 2004 Golden Ball award, given to the nation's top player.

Al Wahda beat lowly Al Dhafrah 5-1 to retain their place at the top of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES League.

BRUNEI League champions DPMM became the first side to complete the Double in the country after beating ABDB 3-1 in a penalty shoot-out in the FA Cup Final, which was goalless after extra-time.

*Michael Church & Azam Mahmood*

On the ball...South Korea striker Choi Yong-soo gets down to training with his new club Jubilo Iwata

# Jubilo look to recapture glory

**JAPAN**

JUBILO IWATA HAVE made a string of star signings to try to recapture the J.League title after two lean years. The most notable arrivals are South Korean World Cup striker Choi Yong-soo, who hit 20 goals for Second Division Kyoto Purple Sanga last term, and Japan goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi, from Nordsjaelland in Denmark.

Jubilo have added only one piece of silverware – the 2004 Emperor's Cup – to their trophy cabinet since winning the J.League championship in 2002. They came close to taking last year's J.League First Stage, finishing second to Yokohama F Marinos, but slipped to 13th in the Second Stage. The team of such past and present national team stars as Masashi Nakayama, Toshiya Fujita, Toshihiro Hattori and Hiroshi Nanami were looking tired, and even two managerial changes last year could not hide the need for new blood.

Now Masakuni Yamamoto, the former Olympic team boss who took over Jubilo in November, has plenty of new options after the club bought no fewer than 10 players.

Forward Choi can expect great service from one of the other new boys, Shinji Murai (from JEF United Ichihara), on the left wing and Norihiro Nishi on the right. International defender Takayuki Chano has also joined from JEF United.

The strength of Jubilo's squad was reflected in the choice of six of their players – Kawaguchi, Chano, Nishi, Fujita, Makoto Tanaka and Takashi Fukunishi – for Japan's first match of the new year, a comfortable 4-0 friendly win against Kazakhstan.

But the club may well need all that strength in depth since they face a series of hard tests from the start of the season. They meet Yokohama F Marinos, champions for the past two years, in the J.League opener on March 5, and have been drawn with Shenzhen Jianlibao (China), Suwon Bluewings (South Korea) and Hoang Anh Gia Lai (Vietnam) in Group E of the Asian Champions League.

Shimizu S-Pulse, Jubilo's Shizuoka neighbours, have also made some powerful signings. Charismatic new manager Kenta Hasegawa, the former Japan striker, has also turned to South Korean talent, bringing in 23-year-old World Cup midfielder Choi Tae-uk from Incheon. Ironically, another big signing, left-back Takahiro Yamanishi, is from Jubilo.

Koji Nakata, a regular for Japan under Philippe Troussier, has rejoined the coach at club level for Marseille from Kashima Antlers.

Former South Korean international Hwangbo Kwan has taken over from Han Berger as coach at Oita Trinita. Meanwhile, Marinos coach Takeshi Okada has had his annual pay raised to £500,000, which puts him alongside the highest-paid home-based Japanese player, goalkeeper Seigo Narazaki of Nagoya Grampus Eight.

*Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae*

# Time for reflection

**The speed with which TV pundits comment on unfolding events is undermining their reputation, says Howard Johnson**

LET ME DECLARE my interest from the off. As a football writer it is to my advantage always to have an opinion on the tiniest incident or issue. It keeps me in work, after all. So I should welcome any investigation of who said what, when and why. The more raking over the coals of football's every little happening there is, the happier I should be. Why, then, am I becoming increasingly uncomfortable about the opinions of TV pundits? Or more precisely, the speed with which they are made.

Alan Hansen's recent outburst about the state of his beloved Liverpool – when he was interviewed for his ghosted column on the BBC sports website – seemed to me to be entirely out of character. Hansen is rightly respected for his forthright views on the game. But the biggest weapon in his armoury has always been his seemingly unerring ability not to shoot his mouth off until he is certain of the ground on which he is standing.

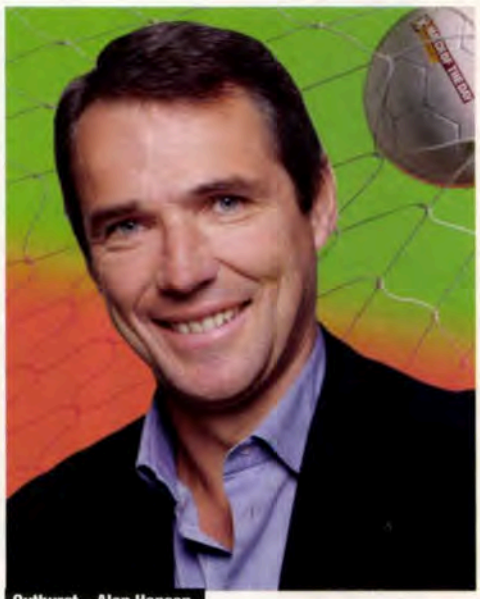
Hansen may well have been smarting from seeing what he described as Liverpool's worst performance he had witnessed in 14 years since leaving the club during the first half of the Premiership game at Southampton. He may well have a point that major investment is needed if Liverpool are to be a real force in English football again. He may well be right that the club are in danger of becoming a relic.

But surely his criticisms of manager Rafa Benitez were over the top, ill-advised and premature. It is one thing to say Benitez is having a bad time of it, quite another to say he is "paying the price" for the decision to field a weakened team in their FA Cup tie against Burnley.

Yes, Liverpool lost that game. Benitez would have preferred them to have won. But what price exactly is he paying? The top clubs see Champions League qualification as the only 'must have' goal at the start of the season. Benitez knows that is where his priorities lie. The clubs who reach the FA Cup Final make a big deal of it, of course. But not even the supporters are fooled these days. It didn't seem as if Liverpool's fans were mortified by their exit from the Cup. Defeat by Burnley was a disappointment, yes, but some sort of catastrophe? Come off it.

## 'Why judge Benitez on the back of just six months in the job?'

Hansen also said: "I think it's fair to say both Benitez and Gerard Houllier have bought one or two ordinary players." Well, I would argue it is grossly unfair to make a judgement on Benitez's purchasing ability until at least the end of the season. It takes time for sides to gel, Liverpool have been ridiculously unlucky with injuries to key players, and if we're throwing accusations of poor buying around, we should also mention Eric Djemba Djemba and Pascal Cygan. And if I'm playing devil's advocate I'll raise you Xabi Alonso and Fernando Morientes in the plus column. Surely it cuts both ways?


Outburst...Alan Hansen

Liverpool used to be renowned for being a club that refused to cede to outside pressure, that would not make rash decisions and change their managers every five minutes. It was this rationale of bucking the football trend for quick fixes that gave Liverpool so much success in the first place. Why suddenly judge Benitez on the back of six months in the job?

The avarice for information we are now seeing in all forms of the football media means that editors believe their products have to analyse, debate and, above all, opinionate about what we've all just seen seconds after we've seen it. And pundits have been sucked into the vortex.

Where is the reflection and contemplation? They are not very fashionable words, but the truth is that as often as not a snap judgement about a big football issue simply cannot be made. It is only with the passing of time that sound logic and reason can be applied to analyse events.

## IT'S ALL GONE WRONG FOR...

### ARSENE WENGER

This time last year he was bulletproof; now, it seems as if nothing can go right for the laconic Frenchman. Imagine the manager of the team that went unbeaten through the whole of last season having to concede the title to London rivals in early February, having just been beaten at home by Arsenal's bitterest enemies, Manchester United, who finished with only 10 men. Add to this the indignity of having to deal with speculation that Chelsea have been meeting one of your defenders behind your back, one of your midfielders having a very public contract dispute with you and one of your players out on loan being convicted of drink-driving – and it all adds up to a very miserable time for Wenger.

Concession...Wenger

Media-friendly...Mourinho

# MEDIA WATCH

# Graeme Souness v Craig Bellamy

"Bellamy had been caught out in the age-old trick: 'I can't go to school, boss, I'm not well.' He claimed he had pulled a hamstring in training. But old Ma Graeme was wise to that one. 'Wait till your father gets home,' he sort-of said and hauled the recalcitrant player up to see the chairman, Freddy Shepherd."
*The Daily Telegraph's* Sue Mott gets all schoolmarmy

"There was, surely, a time when the Bellamy story just could not have happened. When someone would have taken him to one side and told him how to behave."
*The Independent's* James Lawton recalls better days

"Bellamy should watch how Chelsea's Damien Duff races towards a Premiership medal while operating enthusiastically out of position, a left-footer shining on the right. He should also learn from Arsenal's Robert Pires, who unhesitatingly switched from his favoured left to the right to fill in for the injured Freddie Ljungberg."
*The Daily Telegraph's* Henry Winter takes a more practical line

"The danger must be that his career will dwindle with lesser teams, at home or abroad. Football can still find a place for talented mavericks, but Bellamy appears to have talked himself out of the big time, and a period of silence from him would be most welcome."
David Lacey suggests in *The Guardian* that the Welshman says too much and listens too little

"What happened has not left anyone happy. If there is one thing to say it is that no one is bigger than this club."
Alan Shearer nails his colours firmly to the mast in *The Mirror*

"In my experience the problem for Craig was the way he got on with players. He wasn't very political and his interactive skills could be better. At Coventry he didn't understand that not everybody is as good as him."
Former Coventry manager Gordon Strachan in *The Guardian*

You've got some neck...but this time Souness is actually congratulating Bellamy on a winning goal

"As much as Craig Bellamy deserves a good kicking, he is merely a symptom of a deeper malaise that's been eating away at Newcastle's soul for years. The fact they needed to bring in a raging bull like Graeme Souness to re-assert discipline shows how dearly they are paying the price for assembling a squad of party animals, graspers and muppets."
Brian Reade lets fly in *The Mirror*

"It's not a permanent move, which I don't think I could have done because, to be truthfully honest, I am still emotionally attached to Newcastle. I didn't really want to leave and, the way it has happened, I have found it very difficult because I do love the club and I am not ashamed to say that."
If only he had been ashamed to say some other things. Bellamy puts his side of the story in the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* after being packed off on loan to Celtic for the rest of the season

"There are certain things I can't forgive and certain things I can't forget. If I had been seen to be weak, there would have been no future for me in this dressing-room. Craig Bellamy has averaged nine goals in the last two seasons, half of those outside the Premiership. Why are we talking about him so much?"
Manager Souness gives his own brutal appraisal of the situation on local website *ICNewcastle.co.uk*

## IT'S ALL GONE RIGHT FOR...

### JOSE MOURINHO

You can go on all you like about the advantages the Portuguese has had in being able to tap into Roman Abramovich's millions. But you still have to go out there, buy the players, gel the team, plot the tactics and win the games. Mourinho has done all that and more. The former Porto manager came into the English game at the start of the season mercilessly tooting his own horn. He told us he was a great manager and that if we would only watch him, then he'd prove it. Well, he's been as good as his word. Chelsea have shown no weaknesses, displaying courage, bottle, skill and desire. And the Premiership is a way brighter place for Mourinho's cocksure, quick-fire, soundbite-driven relationship with the media. At last! A manager who says something interesting.

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# TALENT SCOUT

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

## Jeremy MENEZ

## Sochaux teenager making record start

**TEENAGE SOCHAUX ATTACKER** Jeremy Menez will long remember the date January 22, 2005. That was the night the 17-year-old became the youngest scorer of a hat-trick in the French League, all the goals coming in a six-minute blitz as Sochaux trounced Bordeaux 4-0.

It was not the first time that Menez had drawn attention to himself this season, his debut Ligue 1 campaign. Two months earlier, he had played brilliantly in the 3-1 victory at Monaco, skipping past French international defenders Sebastien Squillaci and Gael Givet en route to firing home his first senior goal and generally tormenting the opposition back line with his speed, movement and deft touch.

Menez, a prominent figure in the French Under-17 side who won the European Championship last summer, has well and truly arrived.

"The matches against Monaco and Bordeaux were wonderful moments which will stay with me for the rest of my life," says the youngster from the Parisian suburb of Longjumeau who joined the Sochaux academy four years ago. "But I will not let success go to my head. I lead a simple life. I play football, I train, then I go home. I live with my brother and he makes sure I keep my feet on the ground."

The Sochaux striking hierarchy has been turned upside down. At the start of the season, Menez was only fourth behind Brazilian Ilan, Tunisian Francileudo Dos Santos and Moroccan Jaouad Zairi. But the teenager's eye-catching form has changed all that.

"Jeremy has exceptional ability," enthuses coach Guy Lacombe. "He's quick, two-footed, can do everything technically and has an excellent attitude. On the other hand, he is still only 17 and people must not expect wonders from him in every game."

Menez is not only the youngest scorer of a hat-trick in the French League but also the country's youngest professional, having signed a full-time deal with Sochaux last year when aged just 16 years and 10 months.

Sir Alex Ferguson had hoped to entice him to Manchester United, but the youngster decided it was too early for an overseas posting. "It was great to be wanted by United but, in the end, my instincts told me to stay loyal to Sochaux," says Menez. "They have shown a lot of faith in me. They took me on as a 13-year-old and helped me develop. I'd like to follow the example of Zinedine Zidane, who spent several years at Cannes and Bordeaux before going to Italy to play for Juventus."

The economic realities of modern football should ensure that one of Menez's G-14 admirers – Manchester United, Arsenal, Juventus and Milan – will eventually lure him away. But Sochaux president Jean-Claude Plessis suggests that day is a little way off, saying: "It would be like selling my soul."

*Nick Bidwell*

**FACT FILE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Club | Sochaux |
| Country | France |
| Born | May 7, 1987, in Longjumeau |
| Previous club | Longjumeau |
| Honours | European Under-17 Championship 2004 |

# Nourdin BOUKHARI

## Moroccan forward with the gift of the graft

NOURDIN BOUKHARI'S work ethic stands out during Ajax training sessions. Perhaps it has to because the gangly Moroccan forward does not have the same pedigree or natural talent as many of those around him.

But what the 24-year-old lacks in terms of classy touches and deft movement, he makes up for in application. This has been recognised by coach Ronald Koeman, who appeared to have little room in his plans for Rotterdam-born Boukhari at the start of the season, yet just a few months later was naming him to start against Juventus in the Champions League. "At the beginning of the year I wasn't even in the reserves and there was talk of me being sold or loaned out again," says Boukhari. "But now I am in the team and a Moroccan international again as well. It has been a strange time."

Boukhari was loaned to NAC Breda last season and on his return trained with the youth side as he awaited a decision on his future. Then suspension and injuries opened a gap on the left side of the attack in the first team. Boukhari took his opportunity with aplomb, though he is still in a battle with Romanian Nicolae Mitea and youth team graduate Ryan Babel to earn a regular spot. He also earned a Morocco recall, starting to make up for his 18-month absence by scoring in their 4-0 victory over Burkina Faso last November.

Now the forward's sights are set on the World Cup finals in Germany, saying: "Our team is still young, but it is growing."

*Mark Gleeson*

**FACT FILE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Club | Ajax (Hol) |
| Country | Morocco |
| Born | June 30, 1980, in Rotterdam |
| Previous clubs | Sparta Rotterdam (Hol), NAC Breda (Hol) |
| International debut | November 2001, v Zambia |
| International caps | 7 (1 goal) |

# Goran GAVRANCIC

## Fitting the bill in Kiev after Red Star rejection

AS A BOY Goran Gavrancic dreamed of playing for hometown side Red Star Belgrade. But despite spending five years in the former European champions' youth ranks he never got the chance. When he was 17, Red Star told him he had no future there, and the young defender was so disappointed he even gave up football for three months.

However, he then joined crosstown club Cukaricki and began to make an impression. Indeed, he put in such consistently strong performances during 2000-01 that Red Star tried to re-sign him. Instead, Gavrancic made the big leap to join Kyiv Dynamo in January 2001.

It proved an inspired move. He arrived at Ukraine's top club as a virtual unknown but within a year had become a key player. He has now won three championships with Dynamo, gained precious Champions League experience and become a Serbia & Montenegro regular.

Gavrancic, now 26, recently signed a lucrative contract extension, tying him to the club until 2010. "I like it here very much," he says. "If I leave Dynamo, it would be only for a big club in a stronger league."

Such self-confidence is fully justified. Many believe Gavrancic is one of Europe's best defenders, while he can also play equally well as a defensive midfielder. He is powerful, quick, strong in the air, comfortable on the ball and has a potent free-kick. It is little wonder Dynamo fans have long since stopped asking: "Goran who?"

*Vladimir Novak*

**FACT FILE**

| | |
|---|---|
| Club | Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) |
| Country | Serbia & Montenegro |
| Born | August 2, 1978, in Belgrade |
| Previous clubs | Vinca Belgrade (youth), Red Star Belgrade (youth), Cukaricki Belgrade |
| International debut | February 2002, v Mexico |
| International caps | 15 (0 goals) |
| Honours | Ukrainian League 2001, 2003, 2004; Ukrainian Cup 2003 |

# Markus ROSENBERG

## Sweden striker back at Malmo after his Halmstads goalfest

UP-AND-COMING Swedish striker Markus Rosenberg is not one to waste opportunities – not in last season's domestic championship, where his 14 goals for Halmstads made him League top scorer, nor with the national team, for whom he scored on his debut in a recent friendly with South Korea in Los Angeles.

The sight of Rosenberg coming off the bench to grab a late equaliser against the Koreans must have gladdened the heart of Sweden boss Lars Lagerback. With Henrik Larsson out for the season with torn knee ligaments, Mattias Jonson struggling in the Premiership at Norwich and Marcus Allback hardly setting the world alight at Hansa Rostock, Sweden are desperately short of options in attack at the moment. Lagerback could do far worse than pair Rosenberg with the in-form Zlatan Ibrahimovic up front.

The 22-year-old, now back with his first club, Malmo, after his prolific loan spell at Halmstads, offers much more than goals. His technique is good, he is mobile and has the unselfishness and awareness to create chances for others.

"Of course, a striker lives by the number of goals he scores," says Rosenberg. "Goals give an enormous boost to your confidence. But I'm just as happy to make an assist. I want to be a team player."

Before last season, Rosenberg's career was very much a slow-burner. A graduate of the Malmo youth system, he made his senior debut in 2001, but had only a limited impact over the next three years, scoring just four times in 40 first-team appearances.

By early 2004, Malmo had come to the conclusion that the best solution would be to send Rosenberg out on loan. They were convinced he had potential and did not want to definitively offload him. But they were also sure they already had enough firepower in Brazilian Afonso Alves, Niklas Skoog and Andreas Yngvesson. In order to have regular football, Rosenberg said yes to a season-long deal with Halmstads.

It was a decision Malmo very nearly came to regret. In an attack-conscious Halmstads line-up, Rosenberg began to blossom, and with the goals flowing, his new side emerged as Malmo's chief challengers in the championship race. Right until the end of the campaign, the pair were neck and neck, though Malmo finally prevailed with a win on the last day of the season, while Halmstads could only draw.

After such an outstanding season, it was inevitable Malmo would swiftly recall the striker and make him the cornerstone of their attack in 2005. However, his return has not stopped the rumours that he may soon be on the move again.

Barcelona – who reportedly went to a mid-winter tournament in Turkey to scout Besiktas' Norwegian front-man John Carew but came away more interested in Rosenberg – and Ajax are said to count among his admirers. The odds are that his agent, former Swedish international striker Martin Dahlin, will be looking to do the deal this summer.

*Nick Bidwell*

### FACT FILE

**Club** Malmo
**Country** Sweden
**Born** September 27, 1982, in Malmo
**Previous club** Halmstads
**International debut** January 2005, v South Korea
**International caps** 2 (1 goal)

# Colombian gold

**Tim Vickery selects 12 eyecatching talents from the recent South American Under-20 Championship**

Fluid style...Messi

## Lionel MESSI

Born 24.06.87 Club Barcelona (Spa) Country Argentina

Playmaker who arrived in Colombia with a reputation and more than lived up to it. Looks more like a pigeon-toed runt of the litter than a footballer – until he gets the ball, when he runs with the fluidity of the truly gifted, and shows flashes of class with his left foot. Has been at Barcelona since he was 13.

## Ezequiel GARAY

Born 10.10.86 Club Newell's Old Boys Country Argentina

Another accomplished defender from the Newell's production line. The giant centre-back, hardly beaten during the tournament, engendered a sense of security throughout the defence. Has a cannon in his right foot, useful for clearing his lines or for belting free-kicks – he scored three goals in Colombia.

## RAFINHA

Born 07.09.85 Club Coritiba Country Brazil

After a long lean spell, Brazil is suddenly churning out plenty of right-backs. This one has terrific lung power, good close control and can cross well. If anything, he started too well in Colombia. After Rafinha set up two goals in the first six minutes of the opening game, opponents took steps to block him.

## Matias FERNANDEZ

Born 15.05.86 Club Colo Colo Country Chile

The Argentina-born cutting edge of Chile's dynamic and impressive midfield, he is excellent at receiving the ball with his back to goal, turning and launching surging runs at the heart of the opposition defence. Strikes the ball well, too, and hit six goals in Colombia. Has the talent to be pitched into the World Cup qualifiers.

## Jose FUENZALIDA

Born 22.05.85 Club Universidad Catolica Country Chile

Another bright and sparky member of the Chilean midfield. Scampers down the right flank, stretching the opposition and supplying intelligent service into the box. Calm in possession. Scored two goals by cutting in to get on the end of crosses from the left. Also has a long throw.

## Hugo RODALLEGA

Born 25.07.85 Club Deportes Quindio Country Colombia

Arrived from nowhere to become Colombia's new national hero. He came off the bench in the opening game and scored four goals, and proceeded to hit the net in every game he played, finishing with a record 11 goals to help the hosts take the title. Free-kicks, first-time shots off either foot, overhead kicks, penalties – they all went in for the whippy, wiry striker. Now can he cope with the euphoria?

## Camilo ZUNIGA

Born 14.12.85 Club Atletico Nacional Country Colombia

Colombia has hardly been renowned for producing full-backs, but both Mauricio Casierra on the left and especially Zuniga on the right seem equipped to take on the role at senior national team level. Zuniga defended soundly for the hosts but really came into his own when pushing forward. Made a splendid contribution with his speed, lithe dribbles, crosses and sharp passes behind the opposition defence. A real find.

Goals galore...Rodallega

## Juan Carlos TOJA

Born 25.05.85 Club Independiente Santa Fe Country Colombia

Both his grandparents (one a Uruguayan) were professionals, and this long-haired midfielder plays as if to the manor born. The tall, strong left-footer pops up all over the pitch and has quick feet in tight situations.

## Wason RENTARIA

Born 04.07.85 Club Chico Country Colombia

Made a brief but vital contribution in the second round. The burly striker is awesomely strong, good in the air, can hold the ball up, dribble with pace and has an excellent change of direction. Add to that the fact he is a great team player and it's not surprising that River Plate were sufficiently impressed to want him on loan.

## Diego GODIN

Born 16.02.86 Club Cerro Country Uruguay

Lean, lanky centre-back who was one of the most consistent players in the tournament. From the discreet school of defenders – rarely noticed but hardly putting a foot or a head wrong for Uruguay.

## Juan ALBIN

Born 17.07.86 Club Nacional Country Uruguay

Attacking midfielder who still needs to improve his movement and overall contribution but showed there is pure magic in his left foot. His four goals for Uruguay were magnificent efforts.

## Engalberth PEREZ

Born 04.02.86 Club Trujillanos Country Venezuela

Busy, left-footed Venezuelan central midfielder who kept on running at goal, trying to release his strikers with a pass or bursting behind the opposition midfield in search of a shot. Scored one goal and deserved more.

● And a mention in dispatches for PARAGUAY. An extraordinary nine of their 20-man squad will still be eligible for the next Under-20 championship, in 2007. They paid the price for including so many very young players by narrowly failing to make it to the second round. Even so they left an excellent impression. The youngest players in the tournament – playmaker German Segovia and striker Carlos Acuna (both 16) – have fantastic potential, while the slightly older left-footed duo of midfielder Cristian Bogado and winger Ivan Gonzalez Ferreira also showed promise.

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## 2006 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

### AFRICA

**5 finals berths**

**Group 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Togo | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 10 |
| Zambia | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Senegal | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 10 |
| Congo | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Liberia | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| Mali | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 |

05.06.04 Senegal-Congo ..... 2-0
05.06.04 Zambia-Togo ..... 1-0
06.06.04 Liberia-Mali ..... 1-0
19.06.04 Mali-Zambia ..... 1-1
20.06.04 Congo-Liberia ..... 3-0
20.06.04 Togo-Senegal ..... 3-1
03.07.04 Senegal-Zambia ..... 1-0
04.07.04 Congo-Mali ..... 1-0
04.07.04 Liberia-Togo ..... 0-0
04.09.04 Zambia-Liberia ..... 1-0
05.09.04 Mali-Senegal ..... 2-2
05.09.04 Togo-Congo ..... 2-0
10.10.04 Congo-Zambia ..... 2-3
10.10.04 Liberia-Senegal ..... 0-3
10.10.04 Togo-Mali ..... 1-0
25.03.05 Mali-Togo
25.03.05 Senegal-Liberia
25.03.05 Zambia-Congo
03.06.05 Congo-Senegal
03.06.05 Mali-Liberia
03.06.05 Togo-Zambia
17.06.05 Liberia-Congo
17.06.05 Senegal-Togo
17.06.05 Zambia-Mali
02.09.05 Mali-Congo
02.09.05 Togo-Liberia
02.09.05 Zambia-Senegal
07.10.05 Congo-Togo
07.10.05 Liberia-Zambia
07.10.05 Senegal-Mali

**Group 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Africa | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 9 |
| Ghana | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| DR Congo | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Cape Verde Is | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Burkina Faso | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Uganda | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 |

05.06.04 Burkina Faso-Ghana ..... 1-0
05.06.04 South Africa-Cape Verde Is ..... 2-1
05.06.04 Uganda-DR Congo ..... 1-0
19.06.04 Cape Verde Is-Uganda ..... 1-0
20.06.04 DR Congo-Burkina Faso ..... 3-2
20.06.04 Ghana-South Africa ..... 3-0
03.07.04 Cape Verde Is-DR Congo ..... 1-1
03.07.04 South Africa-Burkina Faso ..... 2-0
03.07.04 Uganda-Ghana ..... 1-1
04.09.04 Burkina Faso-Uganda ..... 2-0
05.09.04 DR Congo-South Africa ..... 1-0
05.09.04 Ghana-Cape Verde Is ..... 2-0
09.10.04 Cape Verde Is-Burkina Faso ..... 1-0
10.10.04 Ghana-DR Congo ..... 0-0
10.10.04 Uganda-South Africa ..... 0-1
25.03.05 Burkina Faso-Cape Verde Is
25.03.05 DR Congo-Ghana
25.03.05 South Africa-Uganda
03.06.05 Cape Verde Is-South Africa
03.06.05 DR Congo-Uganda
03.06.05 Ghana-Burkina Faso
17.06.05 Burkina Faso-DR Congo
17.06.05 South Africa-Ghana
17.06.05 Uganda-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 Burkina Faso-South Africa
02.09.05 DR Congo-Cape Verde Is
02.09.05 Ghana-Uganda
07.10.05 Cape Verde Is-Ghana
07.10.05 South Africa-DR Congo
07.10.05 Uganda-Burkina Faso

**Group 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ivory Coast | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 12 |
| Libya | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 10 |
| Cameroon | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| Egypt | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 7 |
| Benin | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 2 |
| Sudan | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 2 |

06.06.04 Cameroon-Benin ..... 2-1
06.06.04 Ivory Coast-Libya ..... 2-0
06.06.04 Sudan-Egypt ..... 0-3
18.06.04 Libya-Cameroon ..... 0-0
20.06.04 Benin-Sudan ..... 1-1
20.06.04 Egypt-Ivory Coast ..... 1-2
03.07.04 Sudan-Libya ..... 0-1
04.07.04 Benin-Egypt ..... 3-3
04.07.04 Cameroon-Ivory Coast ..... 2-0
03.09.04 Libya-Benin ..... 4-1
05.09.04 Egypt-Cameroon ..... 3-2
05.09.04 Ivory Coast-Sudan ..... 5-0
08.10.04 Libya-Egypt ..... 2-1
09.10.04 Sudan-Cameroon ..... 1-1
10.10.04 Benin-Ivory Coast ..... 0-1
25.03.05 Cameroon-Sudan
25.03.05 Egypt-Libya
25.03.05 Ivory Coast-Benin
03.06.05 Benin-Cameroon
03.06.05 Egypt-Sudan
03.06.05 Libya-Ivory Coast
17.06.05 Cameroon-Libya
17.06.05 Ivory Coast-Egypt
17.06.05 Sudan-Benin
02.09.05 Egypt-Benin
02.09.05 Ivory Coast-Cameroon
02.09.05 Libya-Sudan
07.10.05 Benin-Libya
07.10.05 Cameroon-Egypt
07.10.05 Sudan-Ivory Coast

**Group 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Angola | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 11 |
| Nigeria | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 10 |
| Gabon | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| Zimbabwe | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Rwanda | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Algeria | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 3 |

05.06.04 Algeria-Angola ..... 0-0
05.06.04 Gabon-Zimbabwe ..... 1-1
05.06.04 Nigeria-Rwanda ..... 2-0
19.06.04 Rwanda-Gabon ..... 3-1
20.06.04 Angola-Nigeria ..... 1-0
20.06.04 Zimbabwe-Algeria ..... 1-1
03.07.04 Gabon-Angola ..... 2-2
03.07.04 Nigeria-Algeria ..... 1-0
03.07.04 Rwanda-Zimbabwe ..... 0-2
03.09.04 Zimbabwe-Nigeria ..... 0-3
05.09.04 Algeria-Gabon ..... 0-3
05.09.04 Angola-Rwanda ..... 1-0
09.10.04 Gabon-Nigeria ..... 1-1
09.10.04 Rwanda-Algeria ..... 1-1
10.10.04 Angola-Zimbabwe ..... 1-0
25.03.05 Algeria-Rwanda
25.03.05 Nigeria-Gabon
25.03.05 Zimbabwe-Angola
03.06.05 Angola-Algeria
03.06.05 Rwanda-Nigeria
03.06.05 Zimbabwe-Gabon
17.06.05 Algeria-Zimbabwe
17.06.05 Gabon-Rwanda
17.06.05 Nigeria-Angola
02.09.05 Algeria-Nigeria
02.09.05 Angola-Gabon
02.09.05 Zimbabwe-Rwanda
07.10.05 Gabon-Algeria
07.10.05 Nigeria-Zimbabwe
07.10.05 Rwanda-Angola

**Group 5**

*Feb 9 - Rabat*

**Morocco 5** (Zairi 12, 39, 90, Diane 46, Y Hadji 81)
**Kenya 1** (Otieno 90)
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Tamuni (Lby)
**Morocco:** Sinouh - Naybet, Ouaddou, El-Kaddouri, Regragui, Kharja, Diane (Sektioui 72), Y Hadji, Abdessadki (Aboucherouane 63), Zairi, Chamakh (Ahanfouf 68).
**Kenya:** Ochieng - Mukenya, Hussein, Otieno, Oundo, Mulama, Mariaga, Abdalla (Yusuf 82), Baraza (Ngaywa 86), Amanaka, Oliech.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morocco | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 9 |
| Guinea | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| Botswana | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 6 |
| Kenya | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| Tunisia | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Malawi | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 |

05.06.04 Malawi-Morocco ..... 1-1
05.06.04 Tunisia-Botswana ..... 4-1
19.06.04 Botswana-Malawi ..... 2-0
20.06.04 Guinea-Tunisia ..... 2-1
03.07.04 Botswana-Morocco ..... 0-1
03.07.04 Malawi-Guinea ..... 1-1
04.09.04 Kenya-Malawi ..... 3-2
04.09.04 Morocco-Tunisia ..... 1-1
05.09.04 Guinea-Botswana ..... 4-0
09.10.04 Botswana-Kenya ..... 2-1
09.10.04 Malawi-Tunisia ..... 2-2
10.10.04 Guinea-Morocco ..... 1-1
17.11.04 Kenya-Guinea ..... 2-1
09.02.05 Morocco-Kenya ..... 5-1
25.03.05 Kenya-Botswana
25.03.05 Morocco-Guinea
25.03.05 Tunisia-Malawi
03.06.05 Morocco-Malawi
03.06.05 Botswana-Tunisia
03.06.05 Guinea-Kenya
11.06.05 Tunisia-Guinea
17.06.05 Kenya-Morocco
17.06.05 Malawi-Botswana
17.08.05 Tunisia-Kenya
02.09.05 Kenya-Tunisia
02.09.05 Morocco-Botswana
02.09.05 Guinea-Malawi
07.10.05 Malawi-Kenya
07.10.05 Tunisia-Morocco
07.10.05 Botswana-Guinea

*Group winners qualify for finals*

### ASIA

**4.5 finals berths**

#### 1st stage

**Group 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iran | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 22 | 4 | 15 |
| Jordan | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Qatar | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 8 | 9 |
| Laos | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 33 | 0 |

18.02.04 Iran-Qatar ..... 3-1
18.02.04 Jordan-Laos ..... 5-0
31.03.04 Jordan-Qatar ..... 1-0
31.03.04 Laos-Iran ..... 0-7
09.06.04 Iran-Jordan ..... 0-1
09.06.04 Qatar-Laos ..... 5-0
08.09.04 Jordan-Iran ..... 0-2
08.09.04 Laos-Qatar ..... 1-6
13.10.04 Laos-Jordan ..... 2-3
13.10.04 Qatar-Iran ..... 2-3
17.11.04 Iran-Laos ..... 7-0
17.11.04 Qatar-Jordan ..... 2-0

**Group 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Uzbekistan | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 3 | 16 |
| Iraq | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 7 | 11 |
| Palestine | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 7 |
| Taiwan | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 26 | 0 |

18.02.04 Palestine-Taiwan ..... 8-0
18.02.04 Uzbekistan-Iraq ..... 1-1
31.03.04 Palestine-Iraq ..... 1-1
31.03.04 Taiwan-Uzbekistan ..... 0-1
09.06.04 Iraq-Taiwan ..... 6-1
09.06.04 Uzbekistan-Palestine ..... 3-0
08.09.04 Palestine-Uzbekistan ..... 0-3
08.09.04 Taiwan-Iraq ..... 1-4
13.10.04 Iraq-Uzbekistan ..... 1-2
14.10.04 Taiwan-Palestine ..... 0-1
16.11.04 Iraq-Palestine ..... 4-1
17.11.04 Uzbekistan-Taiwan ..... 6-1

**Group 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Japan | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 1 | 18 |
| Oman | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 3 | 10 |
| India | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 18 | 4 |
| Singapore | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 3 |

18.02.04 India-Singapore ..... 1-0
18.02.04 Japan-Oman ..... 1-0
31.03.04 India-Oman ..... 1-5
31.03.04 Singapore-Japan ..... 1-2
09.06.04 Japan-India ..... 7-0
09.06.04 Oman-Singapore ..... 7-0
08.09.04 India-Japan ..... 0-4
08.09.04 Singapore-Oman ..... 0-2
13.10.04 Oman-Japan ..... 0-1
13.10.04 Singapore-India ..... 2-0
17.11.04 Japan-Singapore ..... 1-0
17.11.04 Oman-India ..... 0-0

**Group 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kuwait | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 15 |
| China | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| Hong Kong | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 6 |
| Malaysia | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 0 |

18.02.04 China-Kuwait ..... 1-0
18.02.04 Malaysia-Hong Kong ..... 1-3
31.03.04 Hong Kong-China ..... 0-1
31.03.04 Malaysia-Kuwait ..... 0-2
09.06.04 China-Malaysia ..... 4-0
09.06.04 Kuwait-Hong Kong ..... 4-0
08.09.04 Hong Kong-Kuwait ..... 0-2
08.09.04 Malaysia-China ..... 0-1
13.10.04 Hong Kong-Malaysia ..... 2-0
13.10.04 Kuwait-China ..... 1-0
17.11.04 China-Hong Kong ..... 7-0
17.11.04 Kuwait-Malaysia ..... 6-1

**Group 5**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Korea | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 11 |
| UAE | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 10 |
| Thailand | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 7 |
| Yemen | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 5 |

18.02.04 UAE-Thailand ..... 1-0
18.02.04 Yemen-North Korea ..... 1-1
31.03.04 North Korea-UAE ..... 0-0
31.03.04 Yemen-Thailand ..... 0-3
09.06.04 Thailand-North Korea ..... 1-4
09.06.04 UAE-Yemen ..... 3-0
08.09.04 North Korea-Thailand ..... 4-1
08.09.04 Yemen-UAE ..... 3-1
13.10.04 North Korea-Yemen ..... 2-1
13.10.04 Thailand-UAE ..... 3-0
17.11.04 Thailand-Yemen ..... 1-1
17.11.04 UAE-North Korea ..... 1-0

Head to head...Rafael Marquez of Mexico gets in front of Costa Rica's Paulo Wanchope

**Group 6**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bahrain | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 15 | 4 | 14 |
| Syria | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Tajikistan | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 4 |

18.02.04 Bahrain-Syria ... 2-1
18.02.04 Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan ... 1-2
31.03.04 Kyrgyzstan-Syria ... 1-1
31.03.04 Tajikistan-Bahrain ... 0-0
09.06.04 Bahrain-Kyrgyzstan ... 5-0
10.06.04 Syria-Tajikistan ... 2-1
08.09.04 Kyrgyzstan-Bahrain ... 1-2
08.09.04 Tajikistan-Syria ... 0-1
13.10.04 Syria-Bahrain ... 2-2
13.10.04 Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan ... 2-1
17.11.04 Bahrain-Tajikistan ... 4-0
17.11.04 Syria-Kyrgyzstan ... 0-1

**Group 7**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Korea | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 14 |
| Lebanon | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 11 |
| Vietnam | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| Maldives | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 4 |

18.02.04 South Korea-Lebanon ... 2-0
18.02.04 Vietnam-Maldives ... 4-0
31.03.04 Maldives-South Korea ... 0-0
31.03.04 Vietnam-Lebanon ... 0-2
09.06.04 Lebanon-Maldives ... 3-0
09.06.04 South Korea-Vietnam ... 2-0
08.09.04 Maldives-Lebanon ... 2-5
08.09.04 Vietnam-South Korea ... 1-2
13.10.04 Lebanon-South Korea ... 1-1
13.10.04 Maldives-Vietnam ... 3-0
17.11.04 Lebanon-Vietnam ... 0-0
17.11.04 South Korea-Maldives ... 2-0

**Group 8**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saudi Arabia | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 18 |
| Turkmenistan | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 7 |
| Indonesia | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 7 |
| Sri Lanka | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 2 |

18.02.04 Saudi Arabia-Indonesia ... 3-0
18.02.04 Turkmenistan-Sri Lanka ... 2-0
31.03.04 Sri Lanka-Saudi Arabia ... 0-1
31.03.04 Turkmenistan-Indonesia ... 3-1
09.06.04 Indonesia-Sri Lanka ... 1-0
09.06.04 Saudi Arabia-Turkmenistan ... 3-0
08.09.04 Sri Lanka-Indonesia ... 2-2
08.09.04 Turkmenistan-Saudi Arabia ... 0-1
09.10.04 Sri Lanka-Turkmenistan ... 2-2
12.10.04 Indonesia-Saudi Arabia ... 1-3
17.11.04 Indonesia-Turkmenistan ... 3-1
17.11.04 Saudi Arabia-Sri Lanka ... 3-0

*Group winners advanced to 2nd stage*

## 2nd stage

**Group A**

*Feb 9 - Seoul*
**South Korea 2** (Lee Dong-gook 23, Lee Young-pyo 75)
**Kuwait 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 53,287. **Ref:** Maidin (Sin)
**South Korea:** Lee Woon-jae - Park Dong-hyuk, You Kyoung-youl, Park Jae-hong, Kim Nam-il, Kim Dong-jin, Park Ji-sung, Lee Young-pyo, Lee Chun-soo (Chung Kyung-ho 69), Seol Ki-hyeon, Lee Dong-gook.
**Kuwait:** Al-Fadhli - Asel, N Al-Shammari, N Al-Mutairi (Al-Hamad 54), Al-Enezi, Jumah, K Al-Shammari, Al-Mutawa, Al-Dawood (Abdulaziz 60), M Al-Mutairi, A Al-Shammari.

*Feb 9 - Tashkent*
**Uzbekistan 1** (Soliev 90)
**Saudi Arabia 1** (Al-Jaber 76)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Kamikawa (Jap)
**Uzbekistan:** Polyakov - Ashurmatov, Alikulov, Akopyants, Djeparov, Shishelov (Soliev 89), Maminov, Fedorov (Bikmoev 82), Pashinin, Shatskikh, Nikolaev.
**Saudi Arabia:** Zaid - Al-Montasheri, Al-Bahri, Khariri, Al-Thaker, Al-Jassam, Sharify, Al-Shihoob (Al-Sagri 88), Sulimani, Abushgeer (Al-Shamrani 78), Al-Qahtani (Al-Jaber 73).

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Korea | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Uzbekistan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kuwait | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

09.02.05 South Korea-Kuwait ... 2-0
09.02.05 Uzbekistan-Saudi Arabia ... 1-1
25.03.05 Kuwait-Uzbekistan
25.03.05 Saudi Arabia-South Korea
30.03.05 Kuwait-Saudi Arabia
30.03.05 South Korea-Uzbekistan
03.06.05 Saudi Arabia-Kuwait
03.06.05 Uzbekistan-South Korea
08.06.05 Kuwait-South Korea
08.06.05 Saudi Arabia-Uzbekistan
17.08.05 South Korea-Saudi Arabia
17.08.05 Uzbekistan-Kuwait

**Group B**

*Feb 9 - Manama*
**Bahrain 0**
**Iran 0**
**Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Mohd Salleh (Mly)
**Bahrain:** H Ali - Marzooki, Jalal, Al-Dosari, Duaij (Ahmed 86), Salmeen, T Mohamed, Ghuloom, Mahfoodh, Baba, A Hubail.
**Iran:** Mirzapour - Golmohammadi, Rezaei, Nekounam, Kaebi, Zandi (Navidkia 62), Nosrati, Hashemian (Mobali 86), Mahdavikia, Karimi, Daei.

*Feb 9 - Saitama*
**Japan 2** (Ogasawara 4, Oguro 90)
**North Korea 1** (Nam Song-chol 61)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Al-Ghamdi (Sau)
**Japan:** Kawaguchi - Endo, Miyamoto, Ogasawara, Alex, Fukunishi, Kaji, Nakazawa, Tamada (Oguro 79), Tanaka (Nakamura 66), T Suzuki (Takahara 64).
**North Korea:** Sim Sung-chol - Ri Myong-sam, Jang Sok-choi, Ri Han-ja (Pak Nam-chol 84), Mun In-guk, Choe Chol-man (Kim Yong-su 29), Hong Yong-jo, Han Song-choi, Kim Yong-jun, Pak In-chol (Nam Song-chol 43), An Yong-hak.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Japan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Bahrain | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Iran | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| North Korea | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

09.02.05 Bahrain-Iran ... 0-0
09.02.05 Japan-North Korea ... 2-1
25.03.05 Iran-Japan
25.03.05 North Korea-Bahrain
30.03.05 Japan-Bahrain
30.03.05 North Korea-Iran
03.06.05 Iran-North Korea
03.06.05 Bahrain-Japan
08.06.05 Iran-Bahrain
08.06.05 North Korea-Japan
17.08.05 Bahrain-North Korea
17.08.05 Japan-Iran

*Group winners and runners-up qualify for finals. The two third-placed teams meet in a two-leg play-off, the winners of which meet the fourth-placed CONCACAF team over two legs for a place in finals*

*Asian play-off matchdays: Sep 3 (1st leg), Oct 8 (2nd leg), 2005*

## CONCACAF

**3.5 finals berths**

## 2nd stage

**Group 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 12 |
| Panama | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| Jamaica | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| El Salvador | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 4 |

18.08.04 El Salvador-Panama ... 2-1
18.08.04 Jamaica-United States ... 1-1
04.09.04 Jamaica-Panama ... 1-2
04.09.04 United States-El Salvador ... 2-0
08.09.04 El Salvador-Jamaica ... 0-3
08.09.04 Panama-United States ... 1-1
09.10.04 El Salvador-United States ... 0-2
09.10.04 Panama-Jamaica ... 1-1
13.10.04 Jamaica-El Salvador ... 0-0
13.10.04 United States-Panama ... 6-0
17.11.04 Panama-El Salvador ... 3-0
17.11.04 United States-Jamaica ... 1-1

**Group 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Costa Rica | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| Guatemala | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Honduras | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Canada | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 |

18.08.04 Canada-Guatemala ... 0-2
18.08.04 Costa Rica-Honduras ... 2-5
04.09.04 Canada-Honduras ... 1-1
05.09.04 Guatemala-Costa Rica ... 2-1
08.09.04 Costa Rica-Canada ... 1-0
08.09.04 Honduras-Guatemala ... 2-2
09.10.04 Costa Rica-Guatemala ... 5-0
09.10.04 Honduras-Canada ... 1-1
13.10.04 Canada-Costa Rica ... 1-3
13.10.04 Guatemala-Honduras ... 1-0
17.11.04 Guatemala-Canada ... 0-1
17.11.04 Honduras-Costa Rica ... 0-0

**Group 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 1 | 18 |
| Trinidad & Tob | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 12 |
| St Vincent/Gren | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 6 |
| St Kitts & Nevis | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 24 | 0 |

18.08.04 St Vincent/Gren-Trin & Tob ... 0-2
04.09.04 St Kitts & Nev-Trinidad & Tob ... 1-2
08.09.04 Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico ... 1-3
10.09.04 St Vincent/Gren-St Kitts & N ... 1-0
06.10.04 Mexico-St Vincent/Gren ... 7-0
10.10.04 St Vincent/Gren-Mexico ... 0-1
10.10.04 Trinidad & Tob-St Kitts & Nev ... 5-1
13.10.04 Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago ... 3-0
13.10.04 St Kitts & N-St Vincent/Gren ... 0-3
13.11.04 St Kitts & Nevis-Mexico ... 0-5
17.11.04 Mexico-St Kitts & Nevis ... 8-0
17.11.04 Trin & Tob-St Vincent/Gren ... 2-1

*Top two from each group advanced to 3rd stage*

## 3rd stage

*Feb 9 - San Jose*
**Costa Rica 1** (Wanchope 38)
**Mexico 2** (Lozano 9, 10)
**HT:** 1-2. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Batres (Gtm)
**Costa Rica:** Mesen - Wallace, Chinchilla, Marin, L Gonzalez, Lopez, Montero (A Solis 61), Soto (Hernandez 46), Centeno, Gomez (R Fonseca 71), Wanchope.
**Mexico:** O Perez - Carmona, H Sanchez, Marquez, Salcido, Lozano (Pineda 85), Pardo, Naelson, C Blanco (A Medina 80), Fonseca, Borgetti (Altamirano 66).

*Feb 9 - Panama City*
**Panama 0**
**Guatemala 0**
**Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
**Panama:** Gonzalez - Rivera, Moreno, A Torres, Baloy, Blanco, Garces, Medina, Mitre (Gomez 67), Rodriguez (Aguilar 59), Brown (Perez 72).
**Guatemala:** Trigueno - Morales, Melgar, Chen, Thompson, Romero (Castillo 78), Ramirez, Martinez, Pezzarossi, Rodriguez, Ruiz.

*Feb 9 - Port-of-Spain*
**Trinidad & Tobago 1** (Eve 89)
**United States 2** (Johnson 30, Lewis 54)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Archundia (Mex)
**Trinidad & Tobago:** Hislop - Rojas, M Andrews, Sancho, Fitzpatrick (Glenn 71), Rougier (Eve 46), Jones, Edwards (Theobald 74), A Pierre, S John, Yorke.
**United States:** Keller - Cherundolo, Pope, Gibbs, Bocanegra, Mastroeni (Dempsey 66), Donovan, Beasley, Lewis (Albright 82), McBride, Johnson (Berhalter 87).

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| United States | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Guatemala | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Panama | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Costa Rica | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Trinidad & Tob | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

09.02.05 Costa Rica-Mexico ... 1-2
09.02.05 Panama-Guatemala ... 0-0
09.02.05 Trinidad & Tob-United States ... 1-2
26.03.05 Costa Rica-Panama
26.03.05 Guatemala-Trinidad & Tobago
27.03.05 Mexico-United States
30.03.05 Panama-Mexico
30.03.05 Trinidad & Tobago-Costa Rica
30.03.05 United States-Guatemala
04/05.06.05 Guatemala-Mexico
04/05.06.05 Trinidad & Tobago-Panama
04/05.06.05 United States-Costa Rica
08.06.05 Costa Rica-Guatemala
08.06.05 Mexico-Trinidad & Tobago
08.06.05 Panama-United States
17.08.05 Guatemala-Panama
17.08.05 Mexico-Costa Rica
17.08.05 United States-Trinidad & Tobago
03/04.09.05 Panama-Costa Rica
03/04.09.05 Trinidad & Tobago-Guatemala
03/04.09.05 United States-Mexico
07.09.05 Costa Rica-Trinidad & Tobago
07.09.05 Guatemala-United States
07.09.05 Mexico-Panama
08/09.10.05 Costa Rica-United States
08/09.10.05 Mexico-Guatemala
08/09.10.05 Panama-Trinidad & Tobago
12.10.05 Guatemala-Costa Rica
12.10.05 Trinidad & Tobago-Mexico
12.10.05 United States-Panama

*Top three qualify for finals. The fourth-placed team meet the winners of the Asian play-off over two legs for a place in finals*

## EUROPE

**14 finals berths (including hosts Germany, who qualify automatically)**

**Group 1**

*Feb 9 - Skopje*
**Macedonia 0**
**Andorra 0**
**Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Verbist (Blg)
**Macedonia:** Milosevski - Noveski, Sedloski, Bozinovski (G Popov 75), Vasovski (Stavrevski 41), A Mitreski, M Krstev, Pandev, Sakiri, Cadikovski, Stojkov (Bajevski 68).
**Andorra:** Koldo - Txema, Escura, Sonejee, A Lima, I Lima, Pujol (Jonas 90), Sivera, Silva (J Sanchez 61), Bernaus, Ruiz Gonzalez (Garcia 85).

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holland | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 10 |
| Romania | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| Finland | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| Czech Republic | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| Macedonia | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Andorra | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 4 |
| Armenia | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 1 |

18.08.04 Macedonia-Armenia ... 3-0
18.08.04 Romania-Finland ... 2-1
04.09.04 Finland-Andorra ... 3-0
04.09.04 Romania-Macedonia ... 2-1
08.09.04 Andorra-Romania ... 1-5
08.09.04 Armenia-Finland ... 0-2
08.09.04 Holland-Czech Republic ... 2-0
09.10.04 Czech Republic-Romania ... 1-0
09.10.04 Finland-Armenia ... 3-1
09.10.04 Macedonia-Holland ... 2-2
13.10.04 Andorra-Macedonia ... 1-0
13.10.04 Armenia-Czech Republic ... 0-3
13.10.04 Holland-Finland ... 3-1
17.11.04 Andorra-Holland ... 0-3
17.11.04 Armenia-Romania ... 1-1
17.11.04 Macedonia-Czech Republic ... 0-2
09.02.05 Macedonia-Andorra ... 0-0
26.03.05 Armenia-Andorra
26.03.05 Czech Republic-Finland
26.03.05 Romania-Holland
30.03.05 Andorra-Czech Republic
30.03.05 Holland-Armenia
30.03.05 Macedonia-Romania
04.06.05 Armenia-Macedonia
04.06.05 Czech Republic-Andorra
04.06.05 Holland-Romania
08.06.05 Czech Republic-Macedonia
08.06.05 Finland-Holland
08.06.05 Romania-Armenia
17.08.05 Macedonia-Finland
17.08.05 Romania-Andorra
03.09.05 Andorra-Finland
03.09.05 Armenia-Holland
03.09.05 Romania-Czech Republic
07.09.05 Czech Republic-Armenia
07.09.05 Finland-Macedonia
07.09.05 Holland-Andorra
08.10.05 Czech Republic-Holland
08.10.05 Finland-Romania
12.10.05 Andorra-Armenia

12.10.05 Finland-Czech Republic
12.10.05 Holland-Macedonia

### Group 2

*Feb 9 - Tirana*
**Albania 0**
**Ukraine 2** (Rusol 39, Husin 59)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
**Albania:** Strakosha - Dallku, K Duro, Cana, Haxhi, Lala, Aliaj, Skela, Tare (Bogdani 65), Bushi (Myrtaj 75), Cipi (Osmani 51).
**Ukraine:** Shovkovskyi - Yeserskyi, Rusol, Husin, Nesmachnyi, Shelaiev, Tymoshchuk, Rotan (Vorobei 66), Husiev, Shevchenko, Voronin (Rykun 82).

*Feb 9 - Piraeus*
**Greece 2** (Zagorakis 25, Basinas pen 31)
**Denmark 1** (Rommedahl 45)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 32,430. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
**Greece:** Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Fissas, Katsouranis, Dellas, Zagorakis (Kyrgiakos 46), Basinas, Giannakopoulos, Karagounis (Kafes 61), Haristeas, Vryzas (I Amanatidis 83).
**Denmark:** Sorensen - Poulsen, Kroldrup, Lustu (Per Nielsen 64), N Jensen (Madsen 69), Priske, Gravesen, Rommedahl, Tomasson, D Jensen, Perez (Jorgensen 46).

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ukraine | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 14 |
| Greece | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| Denmark | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| Turkey | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Albania | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| Georgia | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Kazakhstan | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 0 |

04.09.04 Albania-Greece ... 2-1
04.09.04 Denmark-Ukraine ... 1-1
04.09.04 Turkey-Georgia ... 1-1
08.09.04 Georgia-Albania ... 2-0
08.09.04 Greece-Turkey ... 0-0
08.09.04 Kazakhstan-Ukraine ... 1-2
09.10.04 Albania-Denmark ... 0-2
09.10.04 Turkey-Kazakhstan ... 4-0
09.10.04 Ukraine-Greece ... 1-1
13.10.04 Denmark-Turkey ... 1-1
13.10.04 Kazakhstan-Albania ... 0-1
13.10.04 Ukraine-Georgia ... 2-0
17.11.04 Georgia-Denmark ... 2-2
17.11.04 Greece-Kazakhstan ... 3-1
17.11.04 Turkey-Ukraine ... 0-3
09.02.05 Albania-Ukraine ... 0-2
09.02.05 Greece-Denmark ... 2-1
26.03.05 Denmark-Kazakhstan
26.03.05 Georgia-Greece
26.03.05 Turkey-Albania
30.03.05 Georgia-Turkey
30.03.05 Greece-Albania
30.03.05 Ukraine-Denmark
04.06.05 Albania-Georgia
04.06.05 Turkey-Greece
04.06.05 Ukraine-Kazakhstan
08.06.05 Denmark-Albania
08.06.05 Greece-Ukraine
08.06.05 Kazakhstan-Turkey
17.08.05 Kazakhstan-Georgia
03.09.05 Albania-Kazakhstan
03.09.05 Georgia-Ukraine
03.09.05 Turkey-Denmark
07.09.05 Denmark-Georgia
07.09.05 Kazakhstan-Greece
07.09.05 Ukraine-Turkey
08.10.05 Denmark-Greece
08.10.05 Georgia-Kazakhstan
08.10.05 Ukraine-Albania
12.10.05 Albania-Turkey
12.10.05 Greece-Georgia
12.10.05 Kazakhstan-Denmark

### Group 3

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portugal | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 3 | 13 |
| Slovakia | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 10 |
| Russia | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 7 |
| Latvia | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 7 |
| Estonia | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 7 |
| Liechtenstein | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 4 |
| Luxembourg | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 0 |

18.08.04 Liechtenstein-Estonia ... 1-2
18.08.04 Slovakia-Luxembourg ... 3-1
04.09.04 Estonia-Luxembourg ... 4-0
04.09.04 Latvia-Portugal ... 0-2
04.09.04 Russia-Slovakia ... 1-1
08.09.04 Luxembourg-Latvia ... 3-4
08.09.04 Portugal-Estonia ... 4-0
08.09.04 Slovakia-Liechtenstein ... 7-0
09.10.04 Liechtenstein-Portugal ... 2-2
09.10.04 Luxembourg-Russia ... 0-4
09.10.04 Slovakia-Latvia ... 4-1
13.10.04 Latvia-Estonia ... 2-2
13.10.04 Luxembourg-Liechtenstein ... 0-4
13.10.04 Portugal-Russia ... 7-1
17.11.04 Liechtenstein-Latvia ... 1-3
17.11.04 Luxembourg-Portugal ... 0-5
17.11.04 Russia-Estonia ... 4-0
26.03.05 Estonia-Slovakia
26.03.05 Liechtenstein-Russia
30.03.05 Estonia-Russia
30.03.05 Latvia-Luxembourg
30.03.05 Slovakia-Portugal
04.06.05 Estonia-Liechtenstein
04.06.05 Portugal-Slovakia
04.06.05 Russia-Latvia
08.06.05 Estonia-Portugal
08.06.05 Latvia-Liechtenstein
08.06.05 Luxembourg-Slovakia
17.08.05 Latvia-Russia
17.08.05 Liechtenstein-Slovakia
03.09.05 Estonia-Latvia
03.09.05 Portugal-Luxembourg
03.09.05 Russia-Liechtenstein
07.09.05 Latvia-Slovakia
07.09.05 Liechtenstein-Luxembourg
07.09.05 Russia-Portugal
08.10.05 Portugal-Liechtenstein
08.10.05 Russia-Luxembourg
08.10.05 Slovakia-Estonia
12.10.05 Luxembourg-Estonia
12.10.05 Portugal-Latvia
12.10.05 Slovakia-Russia

### Group 4

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| France | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 8 |
| Rep Ireland | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Israel | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Switzerland | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| Faroe Islands | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 1 |
| Cyprus | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 1 |

04.09.04 France-Israel ... 0-0
04.09.04 Rep Ireland-Cyprus ... 3-0
04.09.04 Switzerland-Faroe Islands ... 6-0
08.09.04 Faroe Islands-France ... 0-2
08.09.04 Israel-Cyprus ... 2-1
08.09.04 Switzerland-Rep Ireland ... 1-1
09.10.04 Cyprus-Faroe Islands ... 2-2
09.10.04 France-Rep Ireland ... 0-0
09.10.04 Israel-Switzerland ... 2-2
13.10.04 Cyprus-France ... 0-2
13.10.04 Rep Ireland-Faroe Islands ... 2-0
17.11.04 Cyprus-Israel ... 1-2
26.03.05 Israel-Rep Ireland
26.03.05 France-Switzerland
30.03.05 Israel-France
30.03.05 Switzerland-Cyprus
04.06.05 Faroe Islands-Switzerland
04.06.05 Rep Ireland-Israel
06.06.05 Faroe Islands-Rep Ireland
17.08.05 Faroe Islands-Cyprus
03.09.05 France-Faroe Islands
03.09.05 Switzerland-Israel
07.09.05 Cyprus-Switzerland
07.09.05 Faroe Islands-Israel
07.09.05 Rep Ireland-France
08.10.05 Cyprus-Rep Ireland
08.10.05 Switzerland-France
08.10.05 Israel-Faroe Islands
12.10.05 France-Cyprus
12.10.05 Rep Ireland-Switzerland

### Group 5

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Italy | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| Norway | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| Slovenia | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Belarus | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Scotland | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Moldova | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 |

04.09.04 Italy-Norway ... 2-1
04.09.04 Slovenia-Moldova ... 3-0
08.09.04 Moldova-Italy ... 0-1
08.09.04 Norway-Belarus ... 1-1
08.09.04 Scotland-Slovenia ... 0-0
09.10.04 Belarus-Moldova ... 4-0
09.10.04 Scotland-Norway ... 0-1
09.10.04 Slovenia-Italy ... 1-0
13.10.04 Italy-Belarus ... 4-3
13.10.04 Moldova-Scotland ... 1-1
13.10.04 Norway-Slovenia ... 3-0
26.03.05 Italy-Scotland
30.03.05 Moldova-Norway
30.03.05 Slovenia-Belarus
04.06.05 Belarus-Slovenia
04.06.05 Norway-Italy
04.06.05 Scotland-Moldova
08.06.05 Belarus-Scotland
03.09.05 Moldova-Belarus
03.09.05 Scotland-Italy
03.09.05 Slovenia-Norway
07.09.05 Belarus-Italy
07.09.05 Moldova-Slovenia
07.09.05 Norway-Scotland
08.10.05 Italy-Slovenia
08.10.05 Norway-Moldova
08.10.05 Scotland-Belarus
12.10.05 Belarus-Norway
12.10.05 Italy-Moldova
12.10.05 Slovenia-Scotland

### Group 6

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| Poland | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 9 |
| Austria | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| N Ireland | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| Wales | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| Azerbaijan | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 |

04.09.04 Austria-England ... 2-2
04.09.04 Azerbaijan-Wales ... 1-1
04.09.04 Northern Ireland-Poland ... 0-3
08.09.04 Austria-Azerbaijan ... 2-0
08.09.04 Poland-England ... 1-2
08.09.04 Wales-Northern Ireland ... 2-2
09.10.04 Austria-Poland ... 1-3
09.10.04 Azerbaijan-Northern Ireland ... 0-0
09.10.04 England-Wales ... 2-0
13.10.04 Azerbaijan-England ... 0-1
13.10.04 Northern Ireland-Austria ... 3-3
13.10.04 Wales-Poland ... 2-3
26.03.05 England-Northern Ireland
26.03.05 Poland-Azerbaijan
26.03.05 Wales-Austria
30.03.05 Austria-Wales
30.03.05 England-Azerbaijan
30.03.05 Poland-Northern Ireland
04.06.05 Azerbaijan-Poland
03.09.05 Northern Ireland-Azerbaijan
03.09.05 Poland-Austria
03.09.05 Wales-England
07.09.05 Azerbaijan-Austria
07.09.05 Northern Ireland-England
07.09.05 Poland-Wales
08.10.05 England-Austria
08.10.05 Northern Ireland-Wales
12.10.05 Austria-Northern Ireland
12.10.05 England-Poland
12.10.05 Wales-Azerbaijan

### Group 7

*Feb 9 - Almeria*
**Spain 5** (Joaquin 15, Fernando Torres 33, Raul 43, Guti 62, Del Horno 76)
**San Marino 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Clark (Sco)
**Spain:** Casillas - Michel Salgado, Marchena, Puyol, Del Horno, Joaquin, De la Pena (Guayre 74), Xavi, Luque (Guti 46), Raul (Villa 46), Fernando Torres.
**San Marino:** F Gasperoni - C Valentini, Andreini (B Gasperoni 55), Albani, Della Valle, S Bacciocchi, Domeniconi (M Moretti 72), Vannucci, A Gasperoni (Ciacci 86), Michele Marani, A Selva.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Serbia & M'gro | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Spain | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 8 |
| Lithuania | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Bosnia-Herz | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Belgium | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| San Marino | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 18 | 0 |

04.09.04 Belgium-Lithuania ... 1-1
04.09.04 San Marino-Serbia & M'negro ... 0-3
08.09.04 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Spain ... 1-1
08.09.04 Lithuania-San Marino ... 4-0
09.10.04 Bosnia-Herz-Serbia & M'negro ... 0-0
09.10.04 Spain-Belgium ... 2-0
13.10.04 Lithuania-Spain ... 0-0
13.10.04 Serbia & M'negro-San Marino ... 5-0
17.11.04 Belgium-Serbia & M'negro ... 0-2
17.11.04 San Marino-Lithuania ... 0-1
09.02.05 Spain-San Marino ... 5-0
26.03.05 Belgium-Bosnia-Herzegovina
30.03.05 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania
30.03.05 San Marino-Belgium
30.03.05 Serbia & M'negro-Spain
04.06.05 San Marino-Bosnia-Herzegovina
04.06.05 Serbia & M'negro-Belgium
04.06.05 Spain-Lithuania
08.06.05 Spain-Bosnia-Herzegovina
03.09.05 Bosnia-Herzegovina-Belgium
03.09.05 Serbia & M'negro-Lithuania
07.09.05 Belgium-San Marino
07.09.05 Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina
07.09.05 Spain-Serbia & M'negro
08.10.05 Belgium-Spain
08.10.05 Bosnia-Herzegovina-San Marino
08.10.05 Lithuania-Serbia & M'negro
12.10.05 Lithuania-Belgium
12.10.05 San Marino-Spain
12.10.05 Serbia & M'negro-Bosnia-Herz.

### Group 8

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sweden | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 9 |
| Bulgaria | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| Croatia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| Hungary | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| Iceland | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 1 |
| Malta | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 1 |

04.09.04 Croatia-Hungary ... 3-0
04.09.04 Iceland-Bulgaria ... 1-3
04.09.04 Malta-Sweden ... 0-7
08.09.04 Hungary-Iceland ... 3-2
08.09.04 Sweden-Croatia ... 0-1
09.10.04 Croatia-Bulgaria ... 2-2
09.10.04 Malta-Iceland ... 0-0
09.10.04 Sweden-Hungary ... 3-0
13.10.04 Bulgaria-Malta ... 4-1
13.10.04 Iceland-Sweden ... 1-4
17.11.04 Malta-Hungary ... 0-2
26.03.05 Bulgaria-Sweden
26.03.05 Croatia-Iceland
30.03.05 Croatia-Malta
30.03.05 Hungary-Bulgaria
04.06.05 Bulgaria-Croatia
04.06.05 Iceland-Hungary
04.06.05 Sweden-Malta
08.06.05 Iceland-Malta
03.09.05 Hungary-Malta
03.09.05 Iceland-Croatia
03.09.05 Sweden-Bulgaria
07.09.05 Bulgaria-Iceland
07.09.05 Hungary-Sweden
07.09.05 Malta-Croatia
08.10.05 Bulgaria-Hungary
08.10.05 Croatia-Sweden
12.10.05 Hungary-Croatia
12.10.05 Malta-Bulgaria
12.10.05 Sweden-Iceland

*Group winners and the two best runners-up* qualify for finals. The other six runners-up are paired in three two-leg play-off matches, the winners of which also qualify for finals*
**Group runners-up will be ranked according to their results against the teams finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in their respective groups*

*European play-off matchdays: Nov 12 (1st leg), Nov 16 (2nd leg), 2005*

## OCEANIA

**0.5 finals berths**

### 3rd stage

03.09.05 Australia-Solomon Islands
07.09.05 Solomon Islands-Australia

*Winners meet the fifth-placed South American team over two legs for a place in finals*

## SOUTH AMERICA

**4.5 finals berths**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 11 | 22 |
| Brazil | 11 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 19 | 11 | 20 |
| Paraguay | 11 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 16 |
| Ecuador | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 16 |
| Uruguay | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 23 | 14 |
| Chile | 11 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 13 |
| Colombia | 11 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 11 | 13 |
| Venezuela | 11 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 17 | 13 |
| Peru | 11 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Bolivia | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 20 | 10 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 06.09.03 | Argentina-Chile | 2-2 |
| 06.09.03 | Ecuador-Venezuela | 2-0 |
| 06.09.03 | Peru-Paraguay | 4-1 |
| 07.09.03 | Colombia-Brazil | 1-2 |
| 07.09.03 | Uruguay-Bolivia | 5-0 |
| 09.09.03 | Chile-Peru | 2-1 |
| 09.09.03 | Venezuela-Argentina | 0-3 |
| 10.09.03 | Bolivia-Colombia | 4-0 |
| 10.09.03 | Brazil-Ecuador | 1-0 |
| 10.09.03 | Paraguay-Uruguay | 4-1 |
| 15.11.03 | Argentina-Bolivia | 3-0 |
| 15.11.03 | Colombia-Venezuela | 0-1 |
| 15.11.03 | Paraguay-Ecuador | 2-1 |
| 15.11.03 | Uruguay-Chile | 2-1 |
| 16.11.03 | Peru-Brazil | 1-1 |
| 18.11.03 | Chile-Paraguay | 0-1 |
| 18.11.03 | Venezuela-Bolivia | 2-1 |
| 19.11.03 | Brazil-Uruguay | 3-3 |
| 19.11.03 | Colombia-Argentina | 1-1 |
| 19.11.03 | Ecuador-Peru | 0-0 |
| 30.03.04 | Argentina-Ecuador | 1-0 |
| 30.03.04 | Bolivia-Chile | 0-2 |
| 31.03.04 | Paraguay-Brazil | 0-0 |
| 31.03.04 | Peru-Colombia | 0-2 |
| 31.03.04 | Uruguay-Venezuela | 0-3 |
| 01.06.04 | Bolivia-Paraguay | 2-1 |
| 01.06.04 | Uruguay-Peru | 1-3 |
| 01.06.04 | Venezuela-Chile | 0-1 |
| 02.06.04 | Brazil-Argentina | 3-1 |
| 02.06.04 | Ecuador-Colombia | 2-1 |
| 05.06.04 | Ecuador-Bolivia | 3-2 |
| 06.06.04 | Argentina-Paraguay | 0-0 |
| 06.06.04 | Chile-Brazil | 1-1 |
| 06.06.04 | Colombia-Uruguay | 5-0 |
| 06.06.04 | Peru-Venezuela | 0-0 |
| 04.09.04 | Peru-Argentina | 1-3 |
| 05.09.04 | Brazil-Bolivia | 3-1 |
| 05.09.04 | Chile-Colombia | 0-0 |
| 05.09.04 | Paraguay-Venezuela | 1-0 |
| 05.09.04 | Uruguay-Ecuador | 1-0 |
| 09.10.04 | Argentina-Uruguay | 4-2 |
| 09.10.04 | Bolivia-Peru | 1-0 |
| 09.10.04 | Colombia-Paraguay | 1-1 |
| 09.10.04 | Venezuela-Brazil | 2-5 |
| 10.10.04 | Ecuador-Chile | 2-0 |
| 12.10.04 | Bolivia-Uruguay | 0-0 |
| 13.10.04 | Brazil-Colombia | 0-0 |
| 13.10.04 | Chile-Argentina | 0-0 |
| 13.10.04 | Paraguay-Peru | 1-1 |
| 14.10.04 | Venezuela-Ecuador | 3-1 |
| 17.11.04 | Argentina-Venezuela | 3-2 |
| 17.11.04 | Colombia-Bolivia | 1-0 |
| 17.11.04 | Ecuador-Brazil | 1-0 |
| 17.11.04 | Peru-Chile | 2-1 |
| 17.11.04 | Uruguay-Paraguay | 1-0 |
| 26.03.05 | Bolivia-Argentina | |
| 26.03.05 | Chile-Uruguay | |
| 26.03.05 | Venezuela-Colombia | |
| 27.03.05 | Brazil-Peru | |
| 27.03.05 | Ecuador-Paraguay | |
| 29.03.05 | Bolivia-Venezuela | |
| 29.03.05 | Peru-Ecuador | |
| 30.03.05 | Argentina-Colombia | |
| 30.03.05 | Paraguay-Chile | |
| 30.03.05 | Uruguay-Brazil | |
| 04/05.06.05 | Brazil-Paraguay | |
| 04/05.06.05 | Chile-Bolivia | |
| 04/05.06.05 | Colombia-Peru | |
| 04/05.06.05 | Ecuador-Argentina | |
| 04/05.06.05 | Venezuela-Uruguay | |
| 07/08.06.05 | Argentina-Brazil | |
| 07/08.06.05 | Chile-Venezuela | |
| 07/08.06.05 | Colombia-Ecuador | |
| 07/08.06.05 | Paraguay-Bolivia | |
| 07/08.06.05 | Peru-Uruguay | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Bolivia-Ecuador | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Brazil-Chile | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Paraguay-Argentina | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Uruguay-Colombia | |
| 03/04.09.05 | Venezuela-Peru | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Argentina-Peru | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Bolivia-Brazil | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Colombia-Chile | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Ecuador-Uruguay | |
| 08/09.10.05 | Venezuela-Paraguay | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Brazil-Venezuela | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Chile-Ecuador | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Paraguay-Colombia | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Peru-Bolivia | |
| 11/12.10.05 | Uruguay-Argentina | |

*Top four qualify for finals; fifth-placed team meet the Oceania section winners over two legs for a place in finals*

**Flying tonight...Spain's Xavi (left) and Marco Domeniconi of San Marino**

# INTERNATIONALS

**Wednesday, January 12**

*Jan 12 - St John's - friendly*
**Antigua & Barbuda 2** (Byer 48, Isaac 57)
**Trinidad & Tobago 1** (N Pierre 55)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 2,000

**Saturday, January 15**

*Jan 15 - Los Angeles, USA - friendly*
**Colombia 2** (J Castillo pen 38, Perea 76)
**South Korea 1** (Chung Kyung-ho 3)
**HT:** 1-1
**Colombia:** D Gonzalez - A Gonzalez, Rojas, Vanegas, Garcia (Palacios 49), J C Ramirez, Viafara (Casanas 69), Ferreira, Hurtado (Perea 46), Soto, J Castillo. *Sent off: J Castillo 90min.*
**South Korea:** Lee Woon-jae - Park Jae-hong (Kim Chi-gon 61), Kim Jin-kyu, You Kyoung-youl, Kim Dong-jin, Kim Jung-woo (Kim Do-heon 46), Kim Sang-sik (Kim Nam-il 46), Oh Beom-seok (Park Kyu-seon 74), Kim Dong-hun (Choi Sung-kuk 85), Namkung Do, Chung Kyung-ho (Lee Dong-gook 46).

**Monday, January 17**

*Jan 17 - Los Angeles, USA - friendly*
**Guatemala 1** (Ruiz 3)
**Colombia 1** (Hurtado 80)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Vaughn (USA)
**Guatemala:** Klee - Martinez, Melgar, Sanabria (Rivera 69), Morales, Thompson, Romero (Zacarias 79), Rodriguez (Figueroa 69), Castillo (Quinonez 77), Plata (Villatoro 46), Ruiz.
**Colombia:** B Castillo - Vanegas, Pachon, Palacios, Viafara (J C Ramirez 83), Jaramillo (Ferreira 62), Fawcett (Rojas 46), Casanas, Perea, Torres (Soto 74), Rodriguez (Hurtado 62).

**Wednesday, January 19**

*Jan 19 - Los Angeles, USA - friendly*
**Paraguay 1** (Cardozo pen 45)
**South Korea 1** (Kim Jin-kyu 48)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Hall (USA)
**Paraguay:** Villar - Sarabia, Da Silva, Manzur, Nunez, A Ortiz, Bonet (E Gonzalez 89), Monges, Dos Santos, Cuevas (Samudio 90), Cardozo.
**South Korea:** Kim Young-kwang - Park Jae-hong, Kim Jin-kyu (Park Dong-hyuk 74), You Kyoung-youl, Kim Dong-jin, Kim Do-heon (Kim Sang-sik 81), Kim Nam-il, Park Kyu-seon, Kim Dong-hun (Chung Kyung-ho 62), Namkung Do (Choi Sung-kuk 79), Lee Dong-gook.

**Friday, January 21**

*Jan 21 - Port-of-Spain - friendly*
**Trinidad & Tobago 1** (Sealy 41)
**Azerbaijan 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 500
**Trinidad & Tobago:** Williams - Rojas, King, A Pierre, Charles, Rougier, Fitzpatrick (Gray), Seabra (Theobald), Sealy (Eve), Glenn (N Pierre), Glasgow.

**Saturday, January 22**

*Jan 22 - Kuwait City - friendly*
**Kuwait 1** (B Abdullah 27)
**Norway 1** (Kvisvik 49)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 200. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)
**Kuwait:** Fadhli - Khaled Al-Shammari, A Asel, Zayed, Jumah (Al-Khamis 59), A Al-Shammari, Al-Mutairi (Kamal 59), N Al-Shammari (Al-Shuwaye 89), Al-Dawood (Al-Hamad 90), Saeid (H Al-Shammari 59), B Abdullah (Al-Humaidan 90).
**Norway:** E Johnsen - Hoiland (Kippe 77), Basma, Soma, Storbaek, Storflor (Risholt 77), Gashi, Rudi, Kvisvik (Holm 64), Saeternes (L I Strand 46), Arst.

*Jan 22 - Carson, USA - friendly*
**Sweden 1** (Rosenberg 86)
**South Korea 1** (Chung Kyung-ho 70)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 9,941. **Ref:** Stott (USA)
**Sweden:** Gustafsson - C Andersson, Risp, Lucic, Dorsin, Alexandersson, D Andersson, Ericsson, Hysen (Rosenberg 72), Mourad (Petter Andersson 72), Berglund.
**South Korea:** Lee Woon-jae - Yoo Kyung-ryul, Park Jae-hong, Kim Jin-kyu, Kim Sang-sik (Kim Do-heon 71), Kim Nam-il (Kim Jung-woo 87), Kim Dong-jin, Chung Kyung-ho, Park Kyu-seon, Lee Dong-gook (Kim Dong-hun 78), Namkung Do (Choi Sung-kuk 65).

**Sunday, January 23**

*Jan 23 - Bridgetown - friendly*
**Barbados 3** (M Forde 41, 58, Bristow og 53)
**Grenada 0**
**HT:** 1-0
**Barbados:** Boxhill - Grosvenor (Defreitas 46), Parris, Sobers, Goodridge, N Forde, Williams (Lovell 48), Riley, Cox (K Hall 58), Lucas, M Forde.
**Grenada:** A Baptiste (Charles 52) - F Baptiste, Phillip (Mitchell 65), Morris (Frederick 46), Bristow, S Rennie, Hood, Langaigne, Perrotte (Ettienne 59), D Rennie, Joseph (Cuffie 73).

*Jan 23 - Los Angeles, USA - friendly*
**Guatemala 1** (Rivera 36)
**Paraguay 2** (Cuevas 14, Dos Santos 74)
**HT:** 1-1
**Guatemala:** Motta - Hernandez, Brown (Ramirez 46), Cabrera, Martinez, Figueroa (Navas 70), Antonio, Rivera (Melgar 63), Quinonez (Davila 46), Ruiz (Sandoval 78), Pezzarossi (Villatoro 78).
**Paraguay:** Villar (Bobadilla 46) - Martinez, Sarabia, Manzur, Nunez, Dos Santos, Bonet, A Ortiz (E Gonzalez 89), Monges (Torres 68), Cuevas, Samudio.

*Jan 23 - Marabella - friendly*
**Trinidad & Tobago 2** (N Pierre 21, C Smith 67)
**Azerbaijan 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Gordon (T&T)
**Trinidad & Tobago:** D Williams - A John (Rojas 68), King, A Pierre, Charles, Rougier (Eve 46), Fitzpatrick (C Smith 54), C Gray, Seabra (Celestine 81), Sealy (Glenn 55), N Pierre (Theobald 88).
**Azerbaijan:** Mehdiyev (Yusifov 46) - Amirbayev (E Guliev 46), Abbasov (Melikov 46), Hajiyev, Abdullayev, Akhtyamov, A Kerimov, I Mamedov (Nadirov 25), A Mamedov, Nabiyev, K Kerimov.

**Tuesday, January 25**

*Jan 25 - Manama - friendly*
**Bahrain 0**
**Norway 1** (Kvisvik 49)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Al-Bannai (UAE)
**Bahrain:** A Hussain - Adnan, Baba, Basheer (Marzooq 46), A Hubail (Farhan 46), Saif (Hassan 84), Ebrahim, Makki (Taleb 73), Ghuloom (Ali Ahmed 73), Abdulla, Salem (Salmeen 46).
**Norway:** E Johnsen - Basma (Holm 46), Andersen (Soma 80), Kippe, Hanstveit, Rudi (Risholt 46), Gashi, Storflor (Hoff 46), L I Strand, Kvisvik (Sogard 67), Saeternes (Arst 46). *Sent off: Arst 90min.*

*Jan 25 - Riyadh - friendly*
**Saudi Arabia 3** (Edris 42, Al-Jamaan 60, Al-Saqri 66)
**Tajikistan 0**
**HT:** 1-0

**Wednesday, January 26**

*Jan 26 - Ambato - friendly*
**Ecuador 2** (O Tenorio 88, 90)
**Panama 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. Ref: Vasco (Ecu)
**Ecuador:** Villafuerte - De Jesus, Calle (Trivino 46), I Hurtado (Guagua 46), Bagui (Soledispa 46), M Ayovi (Caicedo 46), E Tenorio (Valencia 46), Lara, Saritama (George 46), Calderon (Mina 46), Kaviedes (O Tenorio 46).
**Panama:** Penedo - Moreno, Solamilla, Miranda (Justavino 46), Enriquez, Mitre, Gomez (Cubillas 46), Steward, Aguilar (Gun 46), Brown, Phillips (Tejada 46).

*Jan 26 - friendly*
**Kuwait 3** (Mohammed og 8, Mussa 70, Al-Humaidan 83)
**Syria 2** (Amneh 39, Rafa'e 74)
**HT:** 1-1

*Jan 26 - San Diego, USA - friendly*
**Mexico 0**
**Sweden 0**
**Att:** 35,521. **Ref:** Hall (USA)
**Mexico:** O Perez - Salcido, H Sanchez, F Rodriguez, Carmona (Mendez 46), Lozano (L Perez 73), Pardo, Naelson (Pineda 73), R Garcia (Osorno 58), Borgetti (A Medina 64), Fonseca.
**Sweden:** Sandqvist - Lundqvist, Persson, Lucic, Nylund, Alexandersson (Petter Andersson 82), D Andersson, Ishizaki, Hysen (Djuric 46), Elmander (Mourad 77), Rosenberg (Berglund 77).

**Friday, January 28**

*Jan 28 - Amman - friendly*
**Jordan 0**
**Norway 0**
**Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Al-Shoufi (Syr)
**Jordan:** Taleb - Ibrahim, Yaseen, Khamis, Fathi, Abu Alia, Saed, Fattah, Kishik, Shihdeh, Al-Bawab (Zboun 60).
**Norway:** E Johnsen (Borch 46) - Storbaek, Soma (Storflor 46), Kippe, Hanstveit, Gashi (Risholt 46), Holm (L I Strand 71), Andersen, Rudi (Sogard 71), Kvisvik, Saeternes.

**Saturday, January 29**

*Jan 29 - Bahahoyo - friendly*
**Ecuador 2** (Kaviedes 45, O Tenorio 56)
**Panama 0**
**HT:** 1-0
**Ecuador:** Lanza - De Jesus (Trivino), Guagua (Calle), I Hurtado, George, E Tenorio, M Ayovi (Caicedo), Valencia (Saritama), Kaviedes (Bagui), O Tenorio, Mina (Lara).
**Panama:** Penedo - Moreno, Solamilla, Steward (Miranda), Enriquez, Mitre (Gomez), Tejada, Cubillas, Aguilar, Brown, Phillips (Justavino).

*Jan 29 - Yokohama - friendly*
**Japan 4** (Tamada 5, 60, Matsuda 11, Alex 24)
**Kazakhstan 0**
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 46,941
**Japan:** Kawaguchi - Tanaka (Kubo 88), Matsuda, Alex, Nakazawa, Kaji, Fukunishi (Abe 46), Ogasawara, Endo (Motoyama 88), T Suzuki (Okubo 77), Tamada (Fujita 88).
**Kazakhstan:** Mokin - Lyapkin, Avdeev, Smakov (Rodionov 46), Soloshenko (Y Asovskin 46), Utabaev (Aliev 54), Chichulin, Kamelov (Zhalmagambetov 46), Baishanov, Larin (M Asovskin 46), Shevchenko (Dubinsky 73)

*Jan 29 - Riyadh - friendly*
**Saudi Arabia 1** (Al-Shamrani 90)
**Turkmenistan 0**
**HT:** 0-0

**Sunday, January 30**

*Jan 30 - Bridgetown - friendly*
**Barbados 3** (Riley 47, 82, Goodridge 80)
**St Vincent & The Grenadines 1** (Guy 14)
**HT:** 0-1

**Tuesday, February 1**

*Feb 1 - Port-of-Spain - friendly*
**Trinidad & Tobago 1** (A Pierre 59)
**Haiti 0**
**HT:** 0-0

**Wednesday, February 2**

*Feb 2 - Doha - friendly*
**Bahrain 2** (Jamal, H Ali)
**Lebanon 1** (Abbas Atwi)
**HT:** 2-1

*Feb 2 - Istanbul - friendly*
**Hungary 0**
**Saudi Arabia 0**
**Att:** 100. **Ref:** Dereli (Tur)
**Hungary:** Szucs - Stark (Gyepes 87), Lipcsei, Juhasz, Nikolov (Simek 68), B Toth (Rosa 46), Leandro, Vanczak (Huszti 60), Vincze, Kenesei (Rajczi 60), Kerekes (P Kovacs 46).
**Saudi Arabia:** Zaid - Al-Thagafi, Fallatah, Al-Montasheri, Al-Sharify, Ali (Al-Shamrani 63), Sulimani, Al-Thaker, Aboshgair (Al-Jassam 63), Al-Shlhoob (Al-Zahrani 75), Fallatah.

*Feb 2 - Tehran - friendly*
**Iran 2** (Daei 41, Borhani 73)
**Bosnia-Herzegovina 1** (Bolic 17)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 15,000
**Iran:** Rahmati - Kaebi (Zare 73), Kameli-Mofrad, Nosrati, Badavi (Sadeghi 78), Golmohammadi (Jabbari 76), Nekounam, Kazemian (Aghaei 85), Enayati (Navidkia 46), Borhani, Daei.
**Bosnia-Herzegovina:** Hasagic - Spahic, Bajic (Vidic 87), Milenkovic, Salihamidzic (Medvid 61), Grlic (Biscevic 80), Grujic, Halilovic, Baljic (Kerkez 82), Bolic, Blatnjak (Ibricic 75).

*Feb 2 - Saitama - friendly*
**Japan 3** (T Suzuki 44, Miyamoto 70, Ogasawara 90)
**Syria 0**
**HT:** 1-0
*Sent off: Jbeili (Syria) 60min*

*Feb 3 - Dalian, China - friendly*
**North Korea 0**
**Kuwait 0**

**Thursday, February 3**

*Feb 3 - Port-of-Spain - friendly*
**Trinidad & Tobago 2** (S John 21, Glenn 43)
**Haiti 1** (Romulus 47)
**HT:** 2-0

**Friday, February 4**

*Feb 4 - Seoul - friendly*
**South Korea 0**
**Egypt 1** (Moteab 14)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 16,054
**South Korea:** Lee Woon-jae (Kim Yong-dae 46) - Park Dong-hyuk, Yoo Sang-chul (You Kyoung-youl 46), Park Jae-hong, Park Kyu-seon, Kim Sang-sik (Kim Do-heon 60), Kim Nam-il (Kim Jung-woo 82), Kim Dong-jin, Lee Chun-soo, Lee Dong-gook (Cho Jae-jin 46), Chung Kyung-ho (Namkung Do 69).
**Egypt:** N El-Sayed - Gomaa, El-Nahhas, Abd Rabo Aboumessalem (Ragab 81), Aboutraika, Barakat, Shawki, Moteab, Zaki (Ali 77), Abdel Malek (Fathi 56).

**Sunday, February 6**

*Feb 6 - Trinidad & Tobago - friendly*
**Barbados 3**
**Antigua & Barbuda 2**
**HT:** 2-1

*Feb 6 - Tobago - friendly*
**Trinidad & Tobago 0**
**Haiti 1** (Germain pen 19)
**HT:** 0-1

**Tuesday, February 8**

*Feb 8 - Rouen, France - friendly*
**Ivory Coast 2** (Dindane 39, Kalou pen 88)
**DR Congo 2** (Makendele 44, Nonda pen 90)
**HT:** 1-1

**Wednesday, February 9**

*Feb 9 - Algiers - friendly*
**Algeria 3** (Saifi 31, 39, S Daoud 83)
**Burkina Faso 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Benacer
**Algeria:** Gaouaoui - Brahami (Rahou 82), Bougherra, Zafour, Belhadj, Mansouri, Dziri, Ziani (Ghazi 88), Saifi (Achiou 46), Bourahli (Belkaid 68), Arrache (S Daoud 61).
**Burkina Faso:** Soulama (Kabore 46) - Lamine Traore, M Ouattara (Kere 46; Kebe 69), O Traore, Amara Ouattara, Kambou, Nkiema (Zoundi 55), T Barro (Zongo 46), T Tall, Cisse, Dagano (Bance 69).

*Feb 9 - Baku - friendly*
**Azerbaijan 0**
**Moldova 0**
**Att:** 1,500
**Azerbaijan:** Gasanzade (Mehdiev 46) - Amirbekov (Abbasov 46), Hajiyev, Shukurov, E Guliev, K Guliev (Abdurakhmanov 46), Ramazanov, A Kerimov (Nabiyev 75), Sadykov, Ponomarev (Abdullayev 85), I Gurbanov (Akhtyamov 59).
**Moldova:** Romanenco - Bursuc, Barisev, Olexici, Catinsus, Savinov, Kovalchuk, Ivanov, Dadu (Frunza 69), Epureanu (Gatcan 82), Miterev.

*Feb 9 - Sofia - friendly*
**Bulgaria 0**
**Serbia & Montenegro 0**
**Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Genov (Bul)
**Bulgaria:** Ivankov (Zdravkov 46) - Kishishev (Georgiev 50), Karaslavov, Markov, I Petkov, Stilian Petrov (Bukarev 46), Yankov (Manchev 68), Kamburov (Topuzakov 46), Lazarov (M Petrov 46), Berbatov, Bojinov.
**Serbia & Montenegro:** Jevric - Gavrancic, Vidic, Krstajic, Cirkovic (M Dudic 83), Mladenovic (Duljaj 46), Dragutinovic, Stankovic (Kezman 46), Djordjevic (Trajkovic 65), Vukcevic (Vukic 63), Milosevic (Jestrovic 63). *Sent off: Trajkovic 90min.*

*Feb 9 - Creteil, France - friendly*
**Cameroon 1** (Geremi 87)
**Senegal 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Lhermitte
**Cameroon:** Kameni - Angbwa, Song, Mettomo, Atouba, Geremi, Emana, Djemba Djemba, Olembe (Tchato 82), Job (Webo 65), Eto'o.
**Senegal:** Sylva - Beye, Diatta, Diawara, Daf, Diagne-Faye, A Faye, Gueye (Fadiga 77), P B Diop, Diouf (Niang 67), H Camara (N'Diaye 78).

*Feb 9 - Vina del Mar - friendly*
**Chile 3** (Maldonado 25, Mark Gonzalez 35, Pinilla 83)
**Ecuador 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Favale (Arg)
**Chile:** N Tapia - L Fuentes, R Rojas, Contreras (Olarra 65), Alvarez (Figueroa 67), Maldonado, Pizarro, Mark Gonzalez (Valenzuela 46), Valdivia (J L Gonzalez 82), S Gonzalez (Suazo 82), D Perez (Pinilla 46).
**Ecuador:** Cevallos - De Jesus, Guagua, Calle, George, E Tenorio (Trivino 71), M Ayovi (Saritama 65), Lara (Calcedo 46), W Ayovi (Bagui 65), O Tenorio, Kaviedes (Calderon 58).

*Feb 9 - Cairo - friendly*
**Egypt 4** (Moteab 40, 51, Abdelmalek 53, Hosni 80)
**Belgium 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** El-Beltagy (Egy)
**Egypt:** Abdelwahed El-Sayed - Gomaa, El-Nahhas (El-Saqqa 58), Abd Rabo, Aboutraika (Ali 58), Fathi, T Said, Shawki, Abdel Malek (Moustafa 69), Moteab (Hosni 66), Zaki (Barakat 58).
**Belgium:** Proto - De Cock (Daerden 58), Kompany (Doll 58), Simons, Clement, Van der Heyden, Baseggio (Bisconti 58), M Mpenza (Pieroni 64), Vanderhaeghe, Buffel (Soetaers 73), E Mpenza.

*Feb 9 - Birmingham - friendly*
**England 0**
**Holland 0**
**Att:** 40,705. **Ref:** Frojdfeldt (Swe)
**England:** Robinson - G Neville, Carragher, Brown, A Cole, Beckham (Dyer 80), Gerrard (Jenas 80), Lampard (Hargreaves 46), Wright-Phillips (Downing 61), Owen, Rooney (A Johnson 61).
**Holland:** Van der Sar - Kromkamp, Boulahrouz, Mathijsen, Van Bronckhorst, Heitinga (Van Bommel 61), Landzaat, Van der Vaart, Castelen (Yildirim 62), Kuijt, Makaay.

*Feb 9 - Saint-Denis - friendly*
**France 1** (Trezeguet 36)
**Sweden 1** (Ljungberg 11)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 58,923. **Ref:** Rodriguez Santiago (Spa)
**France:** Coupet - Zebina (Abidal 68), Squillaci, Givet, Gallas, Giuly (Meriem 69), Pedretti, Vieira, Dhorasoo, Trezeguet, Henry.
**Sweden:** Isaksson - Ostlund, Mellberg, Lucic (P Hansson 76), Edman, Linderoth (D Andersson 75), Wilhelmsson (Anders Andersson 86), A Svensson, Ljungberg (Alexandersson 46), Rosenberg, Allback (Kallstrom 63).

*Feb 9 - Tbilisi - friendly*
**Georgia 1** (Ashvetia 57)
**Lithuania 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Gadiyev (Aze)
**Georgia:** Lomaia - Mjavanadze (Shashiashvili 46), Amisulashvili, Kvirkvelia (Kvaratskhelia 46), Salukvadze, Gogua (Odikadze 76), Kinkladze, Ashvetia, Khizaneishvili, Jakobia (Gigiadze 46), Asatiani (Gogoberishvili 70).
**Lithuania:** Karcemarskas - Stankevicius, Skerla, Skarbalius, Zvirgzdauskas (D Zutautas 85), Barasa, Semberas (Jankauskas 79), Gedgaudas (Kucys 55), E Cesnauskis, D Cesnauskis, Poskus (Radzinevicius 42). *Sent off: Stankevicius 37min.*

*Feb 9 - Dusseldorf - friendly*
**Germany 2** (Frings pen 28, Kuranyi 45)
**Argentina 2** (Crespo pen 40, 81)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Farina (Ita)
**Germany:** Lehmann - Owomoyela, Worns, Mertesacker, Hitzlsperger, Frings, Ernst, Asamoah (Freier 29), Schneider, Schweinsteiger (Schulz 75), Kuranyi.
**Argentina:** Abbondanzieri - Zanetti, Burdisso, G Milito (Cambiasso 46), Heinze, Scaloni (M Rodriguez 46), Duscher (Galletti 77), Sorin, Riquelme, Saviola, Crespo.

*Feb 9 - Paris - friendly*
**Guinea 2** (Thiam 6, Feindouno 55)
**Mali 2** (Traore 8, Diallo 51)
**HT:** 1-1

*Feb 9 - Hong Kong - friendly (Carlsberg Cup)*
**Hong Kong 1** (Lee Sze-ming 85)
**Brazil 7** (Lucio 19, Roberto Carlos 30, Ricardo Oliveira 45, 57, Ronaldinho 49, Robinho 77, Alex pen 79)
**HT:** 0-3
**Brazil:** Julio Cesar - Cafu (Belletti 59), Juan, Lucio, Roberto Carlos (Gilberto 59), Juninho (Elano 67), Emerson, Ze Roberto (Renato 75), Ronaldinho (Alex 59), Robinho, Ricardo Oliveira (Julio Baptista 67).

*Feb 9 - Jerusalem - friendly*
**Israel 3** (Balili 38, Benayoun 74, Golan 84)
**Croatia 3** (Klasnic 15, 78, Srna pen 55)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Kailis (Cyp)
**Israel:** Awat - Keisi, Benado, Gershon, Saban, Badir (Suan 69), Nimni (Golan 81), Tal (Katan 69), Afek (Harazi 85), Benayoun, Balili (D Revivo 89).
**Croatia:** Pletikosa - Tomas (Sablic 46), R Kovac, Simunic (Neretljak 63), Srna, N Kovac (Vranjes 63), I Leko, Pranjic (Babic 75), Kranjcar (J Leko 70), Da Silva (Bjelanovic 75), Klasnic.

*Feb 9 - Cagliari - friendly*
**Italy 2** (Gilardino 56, Barone 62)
**Russia 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,700. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
**Italy:** Buffon - Bonera, Cannavaro, Materazzi, Pancaro (Chiellini 69), Gattuso, Pirlo (Blasi 51), De Rossi (Barone 46), Montella (Esposito 46), Vieri (Gilardino 46), Totti (Langella 46).
**Russia:** Malafeev - Anyukov, Bugaev, Sennikov, Evseev, Ismailov (Boyarintsev 67; Kolodin 78), Khokhlov, Loskov, Zhirkov, Sychev, Kerzhakov (Karyaka 46).

*Feb 9 - Valletta - friendly*
**Malta 0**
**Norway 3** (Rushfeldt 71, 80, Riise 82)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Malcolm (NI)
**Malta:** Haber (Darmanin 26) - Chetcuti, Azzopardi, Carabott (Pullicino 43), Said, Wellman (Grima 46), Agius (Sammut 46), Pace, Cohen, Woods (Giglio 46), Mallia (Barbara 68).
**Norway:** E Johnsen - Bergdolmo, Hagen, Lundekvam, Riise, Rudi, Hoseth (Stensaas 46), Helstad (Kvisvik 46), Gamst Pedersen (El Fakiri 62), Iversen (Rushfeldt 46), Carew (Karadas 62).

*Feb 9 - Belfast - friendly*
**Northern Ireland 0**
**Canada 1** (Occean 32)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 11,156. **Ref:** Attard (Mlt)
**Northern Ireland:** Taylor (Carroll 46) - Baird, A Hughes, Murdock (Kirk 46), McCartney, Gillespie (Jones 75), Doherty (Mulryne 46), Whitley, Davis, Capaldi (Craigan 79), Healy (Smith 81).
**Canada:** Sutton - Reda, McKenna (Klukowski 47), Gervais, Simpson, Bernier, Imhof, Serioux (Peters 86), Brennan (Hume 83), De Rosario, Occean. *Sent off: Gervais 22min.*

*Feb 9 - Grodzisk Wielkopolski - friendly*
**Poland 1** (Zurawski 51)
**Belarus 3** (A Hleb 8, V Hleb 84, Lavrik 90)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Zuta (Lit)
**Poland:** Dudek (Boruc 46) - Michal Zewlakow, Klos (Hajto 46), Zuraw, Rzasa, Kosowski (Gorawski 46), Kaluzny (Radomski 46), Mila, Krzynowek (Zajac 80), Zurawski, Frankowski (Rasiak 66).
**Belarus:** Sulima - Omelyanchuk, Ostrovski (Kovba 46), Shtanyuk, Gurenko, A Hleb, Kulchy, Bialkevich (Kalachou 81), Romaschenko, Kutuzov (V Hleb 67), Bulyga (Lavrik 46).

*Feb 9 - Dublin - friendly*
**Rep Ireland 1** (O'Brien 21)
**Portugal 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 44,100. **Ref:** Messias (Eng)
**Rep Ireland:** Given - Finnan, Cunningham (Dunne 60), O'Brien, O'Shea, A Reid, Holland, Kilbane (Kavanagh 46), Duff (Miller 69), Morrison, Robbie Keane (McGeady 84).
**Portugal:** Ricardo - Paulo Ferreira (Hugo Viana 46), Caneira, Jorge Andrade, Rogerio Matias, Simao (Boa Morte 61), Tiago (Fernando Meira 46), Petit, Deco (Ricardo Costa 46), Cristiano Ronaldo (Manuel Fernandes 70), Pauleta (Nuno Gomes 46).

*Feb 9 - Larnaca, Cyprus - friendly*
**Romania 2** (Pancu pen 38, Oprita 89)
**Slovakia 2** (Vittek 12, Karhan 44)
**HT:** 1-2. **Ref:** Kapitanis (Cyp)
**Romania:** Stelea - Radoi (Badoi 81), Iencsi, Nastase, Rat, F Petre (Balan 70), Galca, Pancu (Plesan 55), D Munteanu (Mitea 55), D Niculae (Bucur 70), Ilie (Oprita 55).
**Slovakia:** Contofalsky - Zabavnik, Petras, Varga (Barcik 60), Cech (Reiter 46), Kisel (Breska 46), Karhan, Hlinka, Janocko (Had 46), Mintal, Vittek. *Sent off: Zabavnik 86min.*

*Feb 9 - Celje - friendly*
**Slovenia 0**
**Czech Republic 3** (Koller 10, Jun 47, Polak 79)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Strahonja (Cro)
**Slovenia:** B Mavric - Pokorn (Rakic 67), M Mavric, Cesar, Ilic, Komac (Brecko 78), Seslar, Ceh (Gobec 56), Acimovic, Rodic (Semler 46), Cimirotic.
**Czech Republic:** Blazek - Jiranek (Kovac 78), Bolf (Hubschman 46), Rozehnal, Jankulovski, Sionko (Vachousek 63), Jarosik, Polak, Heinz (Jun 46), Koller (Lokvenc 46), Baros (Plasil 46).

*Feb 9 - Durban - friendly*
**South Africa 1** (McCarthy 12)
**Australia 1** (Chipperfield 71)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Lim (Mrs)
**South Africa:** Martin - Nzama, A Mokoena, Morris, Rammile, Pienaar (Nomvete 79), Fortune, Vilakazi (Mkhonza 90), Buckley (Leremi 46), Bartlett (Ndlovu 64), McCarthy (Zuma 56).
**Australia:** Schwarzer - Neill, Moore, Popovic, T Vidmar, Grella (Wilkshire 72), Culina (Sterjovski 58), Bresciano (McKain 75), Emerton (Vieri 66), Tiatto (Chipperfield 57), Agostino (Thompson 66).

*Feb 9 - Dubai - friendly*
**United Arab Emirates 1** (Matar 21)
**Switzerland 2** (Gygax 9, Muller 79)
**HT:** 1-1
**Switzerland:** Zuberbuhler - Haas (Degen 46), Muller, Henchoz (Grichting 46), Spycher, Gygax, Vogel (Huggel 68), Cabanas (H Yakin 77), Magnin (Lonfat 46), Frei, Vonlanthen (Rey 61).

*Feb 9 - Caracas - friendly*
**Venezuela 3** (Paez 20, Margiotta 33, Maldonado 83)
**Estonia 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Vazquez (Ecu)
**Venezuela:** Dudamel (Angelucci 46) - H Gonzalez, Rey, Cichero, Rojas, Jimenez (M Mea Vitali 64), Vielma (A Gonzalez 46), Urdaneta (Hernandez 64), Paez (Vallenilla 64), Castellin, Margiotta (Maldonado 69).
**Estonia:** Kotenko - Allas, Barengrub, Jaager, Klavan (Kruglov 46), Rahn, Viikmae (Teever 46), Reim, Zelinski (Zahhovaiko 46), Oper, Terehhov (Lindpere 57).

*Feb 9 - Cardiff - friendly*
**Wales 2** (Bellamy 63, 80)
**Hungary 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 16,672. **Ref:** Richmond (Sco)
**Wales:** Coyne - Edwards (Weston 50), Page, Gabbidon, Partridge (Collins 65), Ricketts, Davies, Fletcher, Robinson (S Roberts 90), Bellamy, Earnshaw (G Roberts 75).
**Hungary:** Kiraly - Bodnar, Gyepes (Vincze 80), Dragoner, Juhasz, Huszti, G Korsos (Rosa 65), Lipcsei (P Kovacs 68), Hajnal (Leandro 58), Gera, Torghelle (Kenesei 81).

## 2005 GOLD CUP QUALIFIERS

### CARIBBEAN ZONE
(tournament doubles as the Caribbean Cup)

### 3rd rnd, 2nd legs

*Jan 15 - Cayenne*
**French Guiana 0**
**Jamaica 0**
**Att:** 500. **Ref:** Fanus (StL)
*Jamaica 5-0 on agg*
**French Guiana:** Karam - Boecasse (Naiama 78), Aime Golitin, St Ange Golitin, Ringuet, Martinon (Laguerre 73), Ajaisso, Fraumar, Simiesong, Cosset, Pulval (O Golitin 53).
**Jamaica:** S Sawyers - Stewart, Taylor, T Sawyers, F Davis, Scarlett (Reid 66), Stephenson, A Williams, Hue (Kelly 75), Shelton (Bennett 62), Ralph.

*Jan 16 - Havana*
**Cuba 1** (Marquez 112)
**Haiti 1** (Cadet 59)
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-1. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)
*Cuba 2-1 on agg*
**Cuba:** Molina - Marquez, Cruzata, Minoso, Fernandez, Perez, Aquino (Morales 66), Cervantes, Colome, More (Prado 77; Alcantara 95), Galindo.
**Haiti:** Beauzile - Bruny, Gilles, Desir (Stephane 90), Versailles, Germain, Chery, Descolines, Mesidor (Jemps 85), Romulus, Cadet.

*Jan 16 - Kingstown*
**St Vincent & The Grenadines 1** (M Forde pen 66)
**Trinidad & Tobago 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 1,450. **Ref:** Pine (Jam)
*Trinidad & Tobago 3-2 on agg*
**St Vincent & The Grenadines:** Andrews - Hendrickson, M Forde, C Huggins, Joseph, Ballantyne (Gonsalves 75), Guy, Francis (Douglas 57), Haynes, Velox.
**Trinidad & Tobago:** D Williams - Rojas, Charles, King, Fitzpatrick, Jemmott (Eve 52), Rougier (C Gray 88), Glen (Glasgow 80), Theobald, A Pierre, N Pierre.

*Winners qualified for final rnd; Barbados given bye to final rnd as hosts*

### Final rnd schedule

*In Waterford, Barbados*

**Feb 20:** Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago; Barbados v Cuba.
**Feb 22:** Trinidad & Tobago v Cuba; Barbados v Jamaica.
**Feb 24:** Cuba v Jamaica; Barbados v Trinidad & Tobago.

*Top three qualify for Gold Cup finals, to be held in the USA from July 6 to 24*

### CENTRAL AMERICA ZONE
(tournament doubles as the UNCAF Nations Cup)

### Match schedule

*In Guatemala City*

**Group A**
**Feb 19:** Honduras v Nicaragua; Guatemala v Belize.
**Feb 21:** Belize v Honduras; Guatemala v Nicaragua.
**Feb 23:** Nicaragua v Belize; Guatemala v Honduras.

**Group B**
**Feb 19:** El Salvador v Panama.
**Feb 21:** Costa Rica v El Salvador.
**Feb 23:** Panama v Costa Rica.

**Semi-finals**
**Feb 25:** Gp B 1st v Gp A 2nd; Gp A 1st v Gp B 2nd.

**Third-place play-off**
**Feb 27**

**Final**
**Feb 27**

*The last four qualify for Gold Cup finals, to be held in the USA from July 6 to 24*

## CYPRUS INTL TOURNAMENT

### Semi-finals

*Feb 8 - Limassol*
**Cyprus 1** (Charalambidis 90)
**Austria 1** (Kirchler 43)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Hyytia (Fin)
*Cyprus 5-4 on pens*
**Cyprus:** Panayiotou (Morphis 46) - Velis (Filaniotis 64), Eleftheriou (Charalambous 70), Lambrou, Elia, Charalambidis, Satsias (Michael 70), Makrides (Goumenos 64), Krassas (N Nicolaou 70), Aloneftis, Constantinou (Yiasoumi 64).
**Austria:** Payer - Pirchler, Stranzl, Hieblinger, Katzer, Kirchler, Kulovits, Martinez, Ivanschitz, Mayrleb (Pichlmann 82), Vastic.

*Feb 8 - Nicosia*
**Finland 2** (Johansson 31, Huusko 72)
**Latvia 1** (Zemlinskis pen 62)
**HT:** 1-0
**Finland:** Jaaskelainen - Haarala (Okkonen 88), Kuivasto, Hyypia, Kopteff, Tainio, Riihilahti, Litmanen (Huusko 67), Kolkka (Hietanen 89), J Niemi (Nurmela 57), Johansson.
**Latvia:** Kolinko - Isakovs (Zavoronkovs 75), Zemlinskis, Stepanovs, Zirnis, Bleidelis (Visnakovs 63), Astafjevs, Laizans, Rubins, Prohorenkovs (Kalnins 55), Verpakovskis (Morozs 79).

### Third-place play-off

*Feb 9 - Limassol*
**Austria 1** (Sariyar 41)
**Latvia 1** (Visnakovs 70)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 50. **Ref:** Theodotou (Cyp)
*Latvia 5-3 on pens*
**Austria:** Schranz (Macho 46) - Ibertsberger (Pirchler 78), Ehmann, Kovacevic, Pogatetz, Mair (Martinez 90), Aufhauser, Sariyar, Dollinger (Katzer 84), Haas (Pichlmann 79), Kollmann.

**Latvia:** Kolinko - Stepanovs, Zirnis, Smirnovs, Zavoronkovs, Laizans (Logins 85), Rubins (Miholaps 46), Bleidelis (Visnakovs 46), Morozs, Verpakovskis (Blanks 46), Kalnins.

### Final
*Feb 9 - Nicosia*
**Cyprus 1** (C Michael 24)
**Finland 2** (Roiha 66, 70)
**HT:** 1-0
**Cyprus:** Morphis (Georgiallides) - Kakoyiannis, Eleftheriou (Lambrou), Louka (Makrides), S Georgiou (Satsias), C Michael (Krassas), Goumenos (Velis), Charalambous, Nicolaou, Filaniotis (Constantinou), Yiasoumi.
**Finland:** Enckelman (Kaven 46) - Hietanen, Tihinen, Pasoja (Kuivasto 86), Kopteff (Haarala 60), Multaharju (Tainio 68), Heikkinen, Okkonen (J Niemi 60), Pohja, Roiha, Huusko (Johansson 68).

## CONFEDERATIONS CUP

*In Germany*

### Match schedule

**Group A**

| | |
|---|---|
| 15.06.05 | Argentina v Tunisia (Cologne) |
| 15.06.05 | Germany v Australia (Frankfurt) |
| 18.06.05 | Tunisia v Germany (Cologne) |
| 18.06.05 | Australia v Argentina (Nurnberg) |
| 21.06.05 | Australia v Tunisia (Leipzig) |
| 21.06.05 | Argentina v Germany (Nurnberg) |

**Group B**

| | |
|---|---|
| 16.06.05 | Japan v Mexico (Hanover) |
| 16.06.05 | Brazil v Greece (Leipzig) |
| 19.06.05 | Mexico v Brazil (Hanover) |
| 19.06.05 | Greece v Japan (Frankfurt) |
| 22.06.05 | Greece v Mexico (Frankfurt) |
| 22.06.05 | Japan v Brazil (Cologne) |

**Semi-finals**

| | |
|---|---|
| 25.06.05 | Gp A 1st v Gp B 2nd (Nurnberg) |
| 26.06.05 | Gp B 1st v Gp A 2nd (Hanover) |

**Third-place play-off**

| | |
|---|---|
| 29.06.05 | (Leipzig) |

**Final**

| | |
|---|---|
| 29.06.05 | (Frankfurt) |

## COSAFA CUP

### Match schedule

**Group A**
*In Curepipe, Mauritius*
**Feb 26:** Seychelles v South Africa.
**Feb 26:** Mauritius v Madagascar.
**Feb 27:** Winners of Feb 26 games play-off.
**Feb 27:** Losers of Feb 26 games play-off.

**Group B**
*In Windhoek, Namibia*
**Apr 16:** Mozambique v Zimbabwe.
**Apr 16:** Namibia v Botswana.
**Apr 17:** Winners of Apr 16 games play-off.
**Apr 17:** Losers of Apr 16 games play-off.

**Group C**
*In Lusaka, Zambia*
**June 11:** Lesotho v Malawi.
**June 11:** Zambia v Swaziland.
**June 12:** Winners of June 11 games play-off.
**June 12:** Losers of June 11 games play-off.

*Group winners qualify for the final group, to be held in August, along with holders Angola*

## EAST ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

### Preliminary tournament schedule

*In Taipei, Taiwan*

**Group A**
**Mar 5:** Taiwan v Guam.
**Mar 7:** North Korea v Guam.
**Mar 9:** Taiwan v North Korea.

**Group B**
**Mar 5:** Hong Kong v Mongolia.
**Mar 7:** Macao v Mongolia.
**Mar 9:** Hong Kong v Macao.

**Semi-finals**
**Mar 11:** Gp A 1st v Gp B 2nd; Gp B 1st v Gp A 2nd.

**Fifth-place play-off**
**Mar 12:** Gp A 3rd v Gp B 3rd.

**Third-place play-off**
**Mar 13**

**Final**
**Mar 13**

*Winners qualify for finals, along with South Korea (hosts), China and Japan*

# EUROPE

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### 1st knockout round draw
Bayern Munich v Arsenal
Liverpool v Bayer Leverkusen
PSV Eindhoven v Monaco
Real Madrid v Juventus
*1st legs - Feb 22; 2nd legs - Mar 9*

Barcelona v Chelsea
Manchester United v Milan
FC Porto v Internazionale*
Werder Bremen v Lyon
*1st legs - Feb 23; 2nd legs - Mar 8*
*(*Inter v Porto 2nd leg - Mar 15)*

### Quarter-finals
*1st legs - Apr 5/6; 2nd legs - Apr 12/13*

### Semi-finals
*1st legs - Apr 26/27; 2nd legs - May 3/4*

### Final
*May 25 - Olympic stadium, Istanbul*

## UEFA CUP

### 1st knockout round draw
Grazer AK v Middlesbrough (Game 1)
Heerenveen v Newcastle (2)
Basle v Lille (3)
Parma v Stuttgart (4)
Sporting Lisbon v Feyenoord (5)
Alemannia Aachen v AZ Alkmaar (6)
Austria Wien v Athletic Bilbao (7)
Partizan Belgrade v Dnipro (8)
Valencia v Steaua Bucharest (9)
Ajax v Auxerre (10)
CSKA Moscow v Benfica (11)
Fenerbahce v Zaragoza (12)
Panathinaikos v Sevilla (13)
Shakhtar Donetsk v Schalke (14)
Olympiakos v Sochaux (15)
Kyiv Dynamo v Villarreal (16)
*1st legs - Feb 16/17; 2nd legs - Feb 24*

### 2nd knockout round draw
Game 1 winners v Game 5 winners
Game 3 winners v Game 10 winners
Game 7 winners v Game 12 winners
Game 8 winners v Game 11 winners
Game 9 winners v Game 16 winners
Game 13 winners v Game 4 winners
Game 14 winners v Game 6 winners
Game 15 winners v Game 2 winners
*1st legs - Mar 10; 2nd legs - Mar 16/17*

### Quarter-finals
*1st legs - Apr 7; 2nd legs - Apr 14*

### Semi-finals
*1st legs - Apr 28; 2nd legs - May 5*

### Final
*May 18 - Jose Alvalade stadium, Lisbon*

## AUSTRIA

**AUSTRIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rapid Wien | 21 | 12 | 7 | 2 | 39 | 16 | 43 |
| Austria Wien | 21 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 42 | 13 | 42 |
| Pasching | 21 | 13 | 2 | 6 | 39 | 29 | 41 |
| Grazer AK | 21 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 21 | 34 |
| Mattersburg | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 31 | 36 | 28 |
| Wacker Tirol | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 32 | 32 | 26 |
| Admira | 21 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 23 | 37 | 21 |
| Salzburg | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 24 | 31 | 20 |
| Sturm Graz | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 17 | 28 | 20 |
| Bregenz | 21 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 21 | 52 | 17 |

## BELGIUM

**Saturday, January 15**
**Anderlecht 2** (Dindane 18, Vanderhaeghe 88)
**Mouscron 0** Att: 23,561

**Club Brugge 3** (Blondel 7, Lange 32, Van der Heyden 75)
**Beveren 1** (Sanogo 40) Att: 24,166

**Genk 3** (Vandenbergh 41, 43, Soetaers 69)
**FC Brussels 1** (Noscatelli 85) Att: 22,218

**Germinal Beerschot 0**
**Gent 0** Att: 8,000

**La Louviere 0**
**Charleroi 0** Att: 9,017

**Lokeren 4** (Bance 60, 80, 83, Hendrikx 73)
**Cercle Brugge 0** Att: 4,800

**Mons 4** (Gousse 47, 50, Datti 86, Schaessens 88)
**St Truiden 1** (Goossens 79) Att: 3,800

**Standard 4** (Sergio Conceicao 38, pen 52, Fassotte og 47, Bangoura 66)
**Lierse 1** (Thompson 85) Att: 12,000

**Sunday, January 16**
**Westerlo 2** (Wallaeys og 36, Mennes 41)
**Ostende 0** Att: 3,500

**Saturday, January 22**
**Beveren 0**
**Mons 4** (Datti 19, 74, Milas 26, Ingrao 46) Att: 3,000

**FC Brussels 1** (Zezeto 5)
**Lokeren 2** (Bance 37, Kristinsson 65) Att: 5,500

**Charleroi 0**
**Standard 0** Att: 19,710

**Lierse 3** (Imschoot 37, Thompson 50, Delorge 63)
**Westerlo 0** Att: 8,750

**Mouscron 1** (De Vleeschauwer 40)
**Genk 2** (Stojanovic 12, Engelaar 89) Att: 5,630

**Ostende 0**
**Germinal Beerschot 0** Att: 2,765

**St Truiden 2** (Beda 26, Ipoua 74)
**Anderlecht 2** (Dindane 15, Mpenza 27) Att: 12,000

**Sunday, January 23**
**Cercle Brugge 2** (Meyssen 18, Pivaljevic 29)
**La Louviere 2** (Brahami 15, 32) Att: 3,900

**Gent 0**
**Club Brugge 1** (Lange 64) Att: 10,840

**Saturday, January 29**
**Anderlecht 5** (Dindane 21, Vanderhaeghe 27, Gregoire 44, Mpenza 60, 78)
**Beveren 2** (Sanogo 2, 50) Att: 23,200

**Club Brugge 7** (Ishiaku 7, Clement 8, 28, 76, Verheyen 14, 25, Lange 31)
**Ostende 3** (Zoko 26, Portier 40, De Wilde 59) Att: 23,931

**Germinal Beerschot 2** (Hoefkens 18, Andre Lima 48)
**Lierse 2** (Solari 46, 80) Att: 8,000

**Mons 1** (Gousse 69)
**Gent 0** Att: 4,000

**St Truiden 3** (Hajnal 6, Niemi 10, Buvens 32)
**Mouscron 2** (Zewlakow 5, De Vleeschauwer 53) Att: 8,000

**Standard 4** (Bangoura 15, 70, 88, Rapajic 53)
**Cercle Brugge 0** Att: 13,000

**Westerlo 2** (K Janssens 14, Paas 78)
**Charleroi 1** (Brogno 51) Att: 4,000

**Sunday, January 30**
**La Louviere 1** (Brahami pen 85)
**FC Brussels 0** Att: 4,365

ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
GOLDEN SHOE

### ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 06.02.05

| POS | NAME | TEAM | GOALS | FACTOR | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Vincenzo Montella | Roma (Ita) | 18 | 2 | 36 |
| 2 | Thierry Henry | Arsenal (Eng) | 17 | 2 | 34 |
| 3 | Samuel Eto'o | Barcelona (Spa) | 16 | 2 | 32 |
| 4 | Andy Johnson | Crystal Palace (Eng) | 15 | 2 | 30 |
| 5 | Tomasz Frankowski | Wisla Krakow (Pol) | 19 | 1.5 | 28.5 |
| | Frode Johnsen | Rosenborg (Nor) | 19 | 1.5 | 28.5 |
| 7 | Adriano | Internazionale (Ita) | 14 | 2 | 28 |
| | Diego Forlan | Villarreal (Spa) | 14 | 2 | 28 |
| | Marek Mintal | Nurnberg (Ger) | 14 | 2 | 28 |
| | Andrii Shevchenko | Milan (Ita) | 14 | 2 | 28 |
| | Vjatseslav Zahhovaiko | Flora Tallinn (Est) | 28 | 1 | 28 |
| 12 | Alexander Kerzhakov | Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) | 18 | 1.5 | 27 |
| 13 | Andrei Karyaka | Kryliya Sovetov (Rus) | 17 | 1.5 | 25.5 |
| | Dirk Kuijt | Feyenoord (Hol) | 17 | 1.5 | 25.5 |
| 15 | Jason Byrne | Shelbourne (Ire) | 25 | 1 | 25 |

For the latest standings, updated weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com

**Lokeren 1** (Bance 55)
**Genk 3** (Daerden 67, Haroun 78, Beslija 90) Att: 6,500

**Saturday, February 5**
**Beveren 3** (Romaric 2, Arunina 10, Seka 13)
**St Truiden 1** (Hajnal 42) Att: 4,000

**FC Brussels 0**
**Standard 1** (Bangoura 62) Att: 7,500

**Genk 1** (Mikulic 63)
**La Louviere 0** Att: 23,169

**Lierse 0**
**Club Brugge 2** (Ceh 26, Victor 81) Att: 10,800

**Mouscron 1** (Zewlakow 36)
**Lokeren 1** (Doba 15) Att: 5,200

**Ostende 1** (Nijs 67)
**Mons 0** Att: 3,600

**Sunday, February 6**
**Cercle Brugge 0**
**Westerlo 0** Att: 3,500

**Charleroi 1** (Bangoura 48)
**Germinal Beerschot 0** Att: 9,403

**Gent 0**
**Anderlecht 0** Att: 10,100

**BELGIUM**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Club Brugge | 21 | 18 | 2 | 1 | 58 | 13 | 56 |
| Anderlecht | 19 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 42 | 19 | 42 |
| Genk | 21 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 32 | 20 | 42 |
| Standard | 21 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 37 | 21 | 40 |
| Charleroi | 21 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 28 | 21 | 38 |
| La Louviere | 20 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 30 | 18 | 34 |
| Gent | 21 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 31 | 24 | 34 |
| Lokeren | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 30 |
| Westerlo | 21 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 21 | 31 | 30 |
| Lierse | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 37 | 36 | 28 |
| Beveren | 21 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 29 | 35 | 25 |
| Mouscron | 21 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 29 | 30 | 22 |
| Cercle Brugge | 21 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 28 | 53 | 22 |
| Germinal B | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 24 | 20 |
| St Truiden | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 24 | 38 | 20 |
| Mons | 20 | 4 | 3 | 13 | 23 | 36 | 15 |
| FC Brussels | 21 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 18 | 41 | 14 |
| Ostende | 21 | 2 | 6 | 13 | 19 | 44 | 12 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
12 Sambegou Bangoura (Standard)
10 Aruna Dindane (Anderlecht)
10 Mohamed Aliyu Datti (Mons)
10 Marcin Zewlakow (Mouscron)

## BELGIAN CUP – last 16

**Jan 18:** Genk 2 Anderlecht 1.
**Jan 19:** Club Brugge 4 Olympique Charleroi 0; Eupen 0 Lierse 7; La Louviere 3 Beveren 2 (aet); Lokeren 2 St Truiden 1; Mons 0 Germinal Beerschot 1; Mouscron 0 Gent 1; Standard 1 Charleroi 1 (aet; Charleroi 4-3 on pens).

## Quarter-finals, 1st legs

**Feb 2:** Charleroi 3 Lierse 1; Club Brugge 2 La Louviere 2; Genk 1 Germinal Beerschot 1; Lokeren 2 Gent 1.

## BULGARIA

**BULGARIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CSKA | 15 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 46 | 9 | 39 |
| Levski | 15 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 37 | 8 | 39 |
| Lok Plovdiv | 15 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 35 | 14 | 30 |
| Slavia | 15 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 23 | 16 | 28 |
| Lovech | 15 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 28 | 18 | 26 |
| Marek | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 21 | 20 |
| Belasitsa | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 16 | 18 |
| Cherno More | 15 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 21 | 17 |
| Vidima-R'vski | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 26 | 16 |
| Naftex | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 16 |
| Lok Sofia* | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 27 | 15 |
| Rodopa | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 15 |
| Beroe | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 20 | 13 |
| Nesebar | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 27 | 13 |
| Spartak Varna | 15 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 15 | 41 | 13 |
| Pirin | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 24 | 12 |

**3pts deducted for non-payment of wages*

## CROATIA

**CROATIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hajduk | 18 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 32 | 18 | 35 |
| Rijeka | 18 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 31 | 18 | 33 |
| Varteks | 18 | 10 | 1 | 7 | 37 | 24 | 31 |
| Inter | 18 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 22 | 18 | 30 |
| Osijek | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 26 | 26 | 28 |
| Slaven | 18 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 20 | 28 |
| Dinamo | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 23 | 27 |
| Kamen Ingrad | 18 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 23 | 21 | 26 |
| Zagreb | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 21 | 24 |
| Pula | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 22 | 18 |
| Zadar | 18 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 22 | 45 | 13 |
| Medimurje | 18 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 37 | 9 |

## CZECH REPUBLIC

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sparta | 16 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 10 | 39 |
| Teplice | 16 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 30 |
| Liberec | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 25 | 9 | 29 |
| Slavia | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 22 | 12 | 28 |
| Jablonec | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 14 | 26 |
| Olomouc | 16 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 17 | 15 | 26 |
| Zlin | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 19 | 21 |
| Ostrava | 16 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 22 | 19 |
| Drnovice | 16 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 20 | 17 |
| Brno | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 23 | 16 |
| Chmel Blsany | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 16 |
| Mlada Boleslav | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 20 | 15 |
| Pribram | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 15 | 29 | 15 |
| C Budejovice | 16 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 20 | 11 |
| Slovacko* | 16 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 10 | 10 |
| Opava* | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 17 | 22 | 9 |

**Slovacko and Opava had 12pts and 6pts deducted respectively for their part in a bribery scandal*

## DENMARK

**DENMARK**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brondby | 18 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 31 | 10 | 43 |
| Midtjylland | 18 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 29 | 24 | 33 |
| OB | 18 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 42 | 23 | 30 |
| Viborg | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 21 | 18 | 27 |
| FC Copenhagen | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 29 | 27 | 27 |
| AGF | 18 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 31 | 31 | 26 |
| AaB | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 28 | 25 | 25 |
| Esbjerg | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 35 | 31 | 23 |
| Silkeborg | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 28 | 33 | 21 |
| Nordsjaelland | 18 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 22 | 37 | 16 |
| Randers | 18 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 20 | 34 | 14 |
| Herfolge | 18 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 15 | 38 | 14 |

## ENGLAND

**Saturday, January 15**
**Aston Villa 3** (Ridgewell 9, Hendrie 27, Solano 76)
**Norwich 0** Att: 38,172

**Bolton 1** (Giannakopoulos 41)
**Arsenal 0** Att: 27,514

**Charlton 3** (El-Karkouri 9, Bartlett 67, Murphy 75)
**Birmingham 1** (Melchiot 55) Att: 26,111

**Liverpool 0**
**Manchester Utd 1** (Rooney 21) Att: 44,183

**Manchester City 3** (S Wright-Phillips 12, 90, Fowler 15)
**Crystal Palace 1** (Powell 32) Att: 44,010

**Newcastle 2** (Shearer pen 9, Bramble 38)
**Southampton 1** (Crouch 42) Att: 51,266

**Portsmouth 0**
**Blackburn 1** (Gamst Pedersen 55) Att: 19,904

**Tottenham 0**
**Chelsea 2** (Lampard pen 39, 90) Att: 36,105

**Sunday, January 16**
**Fulham 1** (Diop 90)
**West Bromwich 0** Att: 16,180

**Middlesbrough 1** (Zenden 26)
**Everton 1** (Cahill 76) Att: 31,794

**Saturday, January 22**
**Birmingham 1** (Volz og 51)
**Fulham 2** (Cole pen 78, Diop 83) Att: 28,512

**Chelsea 3** (Drogba 15, 34, Robben 21)
**Portsmouth 0** Att: 42,267

**Crystal Palace 3** (Leigertwood 66, Granville 70, Johnson pen 77)
**Tottenham 0** Att: 23,723

**Everton 0**
**Charlton 1** (Holland 45) Att: 36,041

**Manchester Utd 3** (Cristiano Ronaldo 8, Saha 69, Scholes 70)
**Aston Villa 1** (Barry 53) Att: 67,859

**Norwich 4** (Francis 18, Ashton 80, Drury 90, McKenzie 90)
**Middlesbrough 4** (Hasselbaink 34, 78, Queudrue 49, 55) Att: 24,547

**Southampton 2** (Prutton 4, Crouch 22)
**Liverpool 0** Att: 32,017

**West Bromwich 2** (Campbell 5, Wallwork 81)
**Manchester City 0** Att: 25,348

**Sunday, January 23**
**Arsenal 1** (Bergkamp 19)
**Newcastle 0** Att: 38,137

**Monday, January 24**
**Blackburn 0**
**Bolton 1** (Diouf 77) Att: 20,056

**Tuesday, February 1**
**Arsenal 2** (Vieira 8, Bergkamp 36)
**Manchester Utd 4** (Giggs 18, Cristiano Ronaldo 54, 58, O'Shea 89) Att: 38,164

**Bolton 3** (Diouf pen 49, Ben Haim 86, Davies 87)
**Tottenham 1** (Defoe 66) Att: 24,780

**Charlton 1** (Bartlett 20)
**Liverpool 2** (Morientes 61, Riise 79) Att: 27,102

**Portsmouth 2** (Taylor 40, Aiyegbeni 58)
**Middlesbrough 1** (Christie 35) Att: 19,620

**West Bromwich 2** (Campbell 82, Earnshaw 89)
**Crystal Palace 2** (Johnson 47, Riihilahti 90) Att: 25,092

**Wednesday, February 2**
**Birmingham 2** (Pandiani 12, Blake pen 41)
**Southampton 1** (Camara 52) Att: 28,797

**Blackburn 0**
**Chelsea 1** (Robben 5) Att: 23,414

**Everton 1** (Doherty og 79)
**Norwich 0** Att: 37,485

**Fulham 1** (Clark 90)
**Aston Villa 1** (Angel 55) Att: 17,624

**Manchester City 1** (Fowler pen 49)
**Newcastle 1** (Shearer 10) Att: 45,752

**Saturday, February 5**
**Aston Villa 1** (Angel 74)
**Arsenal 3** (Ljungberg 10, Henry 14, Cole 28) Att: 42,593

**Crystal Palace 0**
**Bolton 1** (Nolan 31) Att: 23,163

**Liverpool 3** (Morientes 9, Hyypia 63, Baros 79)
**Fulham 1** (Cole 16) Att: 43,534

**Manchester Utd 2** (Keane 55, Rooney 78)
**Birmingham 0** Att: 67,838

**Middlesbrough 1** (Queudrue 35)
**Blackburn 0** Att: 30,564

**Newcastle 1** (Dyer 52)
**Charlton 1** (Rommedahl 53) Att: 51,114

**Norwich 3** (Fleming 45, Doherty 62, Francis 86)
**West Bromwich 2** (Earnshaw 41, Richardson 49) Att: 24,292

**Tottenham 3** (Hossam 34, 60, Keane 83)
**Portsmouth 1** (Kamara 28) Att: 36,105

**Sunday, February 6**
**Chelsea 0**
**Manchester City 0** Att: 42,093

**Southampton 2** (Crouch 36, Camara 55)
**Everton 2** (Beattie 4, Bent 90) Att: 31,509

**ENGLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 26 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 49 | 8 | 65 |
| Man Utd | 26 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 43 | 16 | 56 |
| Arsenal | 26 | 16 | 6 | 4 | 58 | 30 | 54 |
| Everton | 26 | 14 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 27 | 48 |
| Liverpool | 26 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 41 | 27 | 43 |
| Middlesbrough | 26 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 41 | 35 | 40 |
| Bolton | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 35 | 32 | 39 |
| Charlton | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 30 | 36 | 38 |
| Tottenham | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 33 | 30 | 36 |
| Man City | 26 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 31 | 27 | 33 |
| Aston Villa | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 29 | 33 | 32 |
| Newcastle | 26 | 7 | 10 | 9 | 37 | 43 | 31 |
| Portsmouth | 26 | 8 | 6 | 12 | 29 | 38 | 30 |
| Birmingham | 26 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 29 | 33 | 29 |
| Fulham | 26 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 33 | 44 | 29 |
| Blackburn | 26 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 21 | 36 | 25 |
| Crystal Palace | 26 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 29 | 40 | 22 |
| Norwich | 26 | 3 | 11 | 12 | 26 | 49 | 20 |
| Southampton | 26 | 3 | 10 | 13 | 28 | 43 | 19 |
| West Brom | 26 | 2 | 11 | 13 | 23 | 49 | 17 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
17 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
15 Andy Johnson (Crystal Palace)
11 Jermain Defoe (Tottenham)

## FA CUP – 3rd rnd (last 64)

**Jan 18:** Burnley 1 Liverpool 0.

*3rd rnd replays*
**Jan 17:** Swansea 0 Reading 1 (aet).
**Jan 18:** Blackpool 0 Leicester 1.
**Jan 19:** Blackburn 3 Cardiff 2; Boston 0 Hartlepool 1; Exeter 0 Manchester Utd 2; Fulham 2 Watford 0.

## 4th rnd (last 32)

**Jan 29:** Arsenal 2 Wolverhampton 0; Blackburn 3 Colchester 0; Brentford 0 Hartlepool 0; Burnley 2 Bournemouth 0; Charlton 3 Yeovil 2; Derby 1 Fulham 1; Everton 3 Sunderland 0; Manchester Utd 3 Middlesbrough 0; Newcastle 3 Coventry 1; Nottingham Forest 1 Peterborough 0; Reading 1 Leicester 2; Southampton 2 Portsmouth 1; West Bromwich 1 Tottenham 1; West Ham 1 Sheffield Utd 1.
**Jan 30:** Chelsea 2 Birmingham 0; Oldham 0 Bolton 1.

## FRANCE

**Saturday, January 15**
**Ajaccio 1** (Seck 44)
**Bastia 0** Att: 3,799

**Auxerre 2** (Akale 67, Pieroni 84)
**Sochaux 0** Att: 9,182

**Bordeaux 1** (Chamakh 85)
**Lille 3** (Debuchy 1, Brunel 44, Audel 80) Att: 21,816

**Lens 0**
**Istres 1** (Saifi 21) Att: 31,798

**Lyon 2** (Juninho 84, Bergougnoux 88)
**Metz 0** Att: 38,909

**Monaco 5** (Kallon 8, pen 50, Maicon 37, Saviola 43, Plasil 80)
**Caen 2** (Watier 33, Lemaitre 87) Att: 7,834

**Nantes 2** (Keseru 30, Savinaud pen 63)
**Rennes 0** Att: 32,472

**Paris SG 0**
**Toulouse 0** Att: 34,051

**Strasbourg 1** (Niang 10)
**Saint-Etienne 1** (Hognon 33) Att: 12,813

**Sunday, January 16**
**Marseille 2** (Luyindula 3, 15)
**Nice 0** Att: 49,000

**Saturday, January 22**
**Bastia 2** (Nee 18, Hadji 85)
**Nice 0** Att: 4,135

**Caen 0**
**Auxerre 2** (Bolf 67, Mignot 80) Att: 20,513

**Istres 1** (Chaussidiere 53)
**Strasbourg 1** (Pagis pen 45) Att: 4,927

**Metz 0**
**Marseille 1** (Luyindula 25) Att: 25,908

**Monaco 2** (Saviola 21, Maicon 41)
**Lens 0** Att: 9,354

**Rennes 2** (Frei 28, Bonnal og 66)
**Ajaccio 0** Att: 20,719

**Saint-Etienne 0**
**Paris SG 0** Att: 31,672

**Sochaux 4** (Monsoreau 76, Menez 79, 83, 85)
**Bordeaux 0** Att: 14,585

**Toulouse 2** (Emana 31, Psaume 72)
**Nantes 1** (Diallo 15) Att: 23,115

**Sunday, January 23**
**Lille 2** (Moussilou 3, 68)
**Lyon 1** (Juninho pen 77) Att: 22,000

**Tuesday, January 25**
**Marseille 0**
**Sochaux 2** (Santos 53, Pitau 68) Att: 48,000

**Wednesday, January 26**
**Ajaccio 1** (Waldir Lucas Pereira 28)
**Toulouse 0** Att: 3,100

**Auxerre 4** (Mwaruwari 11, 61, Akale 73, Kalou 90)
**Bastia 1** (Nee 7) Att: 6,188

**Bordeaux 1** (Darcheville 67)
**Metz 0** Att: 16,459

**Lens 0**
**Caen 1** (Mazure 50) Att: 28,921

**Lyon 2** (Bergougnoux 44, Govou 45)
**Rennes 1** (Monterrubio 90) Att: 37,276

**Nantes 0**
**Saint-Etienne 0** Att: 33,682

**Nice 1** (Cobos 90)
**Lille 1** (Acimovic pen 38) Att: 9,625

**Paris SG 2** (Helder 29, Pauleta 52)
**Istres 2** (Bakayoko pen 61, Pele 82) Att: 29,445

**Saturday, January 29**
**Caen 0**
**Lille 0** Att: 18,295

**Lens 2** (Thornert 29, 60)
**Strasbourg 1** (Farnerud 67) Att: 30,110

**Metz 3** (Gueye 51, Tum 60, 63)
**Auxerre 0** Att: 13,741

**Rennes 2** (Ouaddou 16, Monterrubio pen 67)
**Bordeaux 0** Att: 20,454

**Sochaux 0**
**Nice 0** Att: 11,912

**Toulouse 1** (Taider 26)
**Marseille 3** (Batlles 12, Marlet 44, Luyindula 83) Att: 35,767

**Sunday, January 30**
**Istres 0**
**Nantes 1** (Ca 84) Att: 4,500

**Monaco 2** (Kallon 36, Bernardi 56)
**Paris SG 0** Att: 18,000

**Tuesday, February 1**
**Bastia 1** (Chimbonda 49)
**Lyon 1** (Essien 20) Att: 4,419

**Saturday, February 5**
**Ajaccio 0**
**Istres 0** Att: 1,969

**Auxerre 2** (Mwaruwari 32, Kalou 84)
**Saint-Etienne 2** (Compan pen 12, Feindouno 78) Att: 17,982

**Bordeaux 0**
**Bastia 0** Att: 19,476

**Lille 0**
**Sochaux 0** Att: 11,088

**Lyon 4** (Juninho 2, 53, Malouda 45, Bergougnoux 57)
**Toulouse 0** Att: 37,447

**Marseille 3** (Cheyrou 35, Batiles 42, Marlet 52)
**Rennes 1** (Maoulida 81) Att: 50,526

**Nantes 0**
**Monaco 0** Att: 33,671

**Nice 1** (Vahirua pen 77)
**Metz 1** (Proment pen 68) Att: 9,004

**Strasbourg 5** (Pagis 8, 55, 83, Abdessadki 27, Niang 38)
**Caen 0** Att: 20,528

**Sunday, February 6**
**Paris SG 0**
**Lens 2** (Diarra 41, Leroy 50) Att: 35,000

**FRANCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lyon | 25 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 35 | 12 | 52 |
| Lille | 25 | 12 | 9 | 4 | 30 | 16 | 45 |
| Marseille | 25 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 33 | 23 | 44 |
| Monaco | 24 | 11 | 10 | 3 | 34 | 20 | 43 |
| Auxerre | 25 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 36 | 26 | 42 |
| Sochaux | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 30 | 23 | 35 |
| Toulouse | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 26 | 26 | 35 |
| Bordeaux | 25 | 6 | 14 | 5 | 26 | 22 | 32 |
| Rennes | 25 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 26 | 30 | 32 |
| Saint-Etienne | 24 | 6 | 13 | 5 | 29 | 22 | 31 |
| Lens | 25 | 7 | 10 | 8 | 25 | 25 | 31 |
| Paris SG | 25 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 25 | 28 | 30 |
| Metz | 25 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 22 | 31 | 30 |
| Nice | 25 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 29 | 34 | 29 |
| Nantes | 25 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 20 | 24 | 27 |
| Strasbourg | 24 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 26 | 31 | 24 |
| Caen | 25 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 18 | 42 | 24 |
| Ajaccio | 24 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 18 | 26 | 23 |
| Bastia | 25 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 18 | 31 | 23 |
| Istres | 25 | 2 | 12 | 11 | 14 | 28 | 18 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
11 Mohamed Kallon (Monaco)
11 Mickael Pagis (Strasbourg)
10 Pauleta (Paris SG)

## GERMANY

**Friday, January 21**
**Bayern Munich 3** (Pizarro 22, Schweinsteiger 48, Makaay 55)
**Hamburg 0** Att: 39,000

**Saturday, January 22**
**Hansa Rostock 0**
**Freiburg 0** Att: 22,500

**Mainz 2** (Gerber 13, Teinert 90)
**Stuttgart 3** (Wache og 51, Hleb 54, Cacau 66) Att: 20,300

**Monchengladbach 1** (Moore 53)
**Arminia Bielefeld 0** Att: 40,633

**Nurnberg 1** (S Muller 66)
**Kaiserslautern 3** (Lembi 51, Blank 60, Grammozis 84) Att: 21,647

**Schalke 2** (Asamoah 48, Ailton 67)
**Werder Bremen 1** (Ismael 51) Att: 61,524

**Wolfsburg 1** (Quiroga 82)
**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Smolarek 55, Koller 60) Att: 29,621

**Sunday, January 23**
**Bochum 2** (Madsen pen 39, Lokvenc 80)
**Hertha 2** (Rafael 3, Gilberto 16) Att: 23,262

**Hannover 0**
**Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Voronin 18, Berbatov 36, Freier 58) Att: 38,067

**Saturday, January 29**
**Arminia Bielefeld 0**
**Hannover 1** (Stendel 30) Att: 21,439

**Bayer Leverkusen 4** (Krzynowek 28, Voronin 31, Ponte 70, Freier 78)
**Bochum 0** Att: 22,500

**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Koller 29)
**Monchengladbach 1** (Kluge 49) Att: 79,500

**Freiburg 1** (Bajramovic 57)
**Wolfsburg 0** Att: 20,000

**Hamburg 2** (Barbarez 31, Lauth 80)
**Mainz 1** (Auer 40) Att: 44,730

**Kaiserslautern 2** (Amanatidis 56, Blank pen 74)
**Schalke 0** Att: 37,850

**Stuttgart 2** (Fernando Meira 52, Szabics 70)
**Nurnberg 4** (S Muller 6, Schroth 11, 85, Mintal 83) Att: 46,765

**Sunday, January 30**
**Hertha 0**
**Bayern Munich 0** Att: 74,500

**Werder Bremen 3** (Klasnic 5, 62, Klose 31)
**Hansa Rostock 2** (D Rasmussen 45, T Rasmussen 65) Att: 38,345

**Saturday, February 5**
**Bayern Munich 2** (Makaay pen 45, Guerrero 68)
**Bayer Leverkusen 0** Att: 45,000

**Bochum 1** (Madsen pen 19)
**Arminia Bielefeld 1** (Buckley 29) Att: 22,233

**Hannover 1** (Krupnikovic 72)
**Borussia Dortmund 3** (Koller 6, Ricken 30, 56) Att: 36,523

**Hansa Rostock 2** (Prica 66, Arvidsson 73)
**Schalke 2** (Sand 25, Ailton 90) Att: 24,000

**Mainz 0**
**Hertha 3** (Basturk 26, 76, Neuendorf 68) Att: 20,300

**Nurnberg 1** (Vittek 82)
**Hamburg 3** (Takahara 31, 53, Lauth 90) Att: 22,264

**Stuttgart 1** (Kuranyi 15)
**Kaiserslautern 1** (Engelhardt 61) Att: 32,000

**Sunday, February 6**
**Monchengladbach 3** (Sverkos 25, Sonck 29, 49)
**Freiburg 2** (Coulibaly 13, Riether 61) Att: 40,450

**Wolfsburg 2** (Brdaric 25, Thiam 49)
**Werder Bremen 3** (Klose 50, Magnin 59, Haedo Valdez 87) Att: 24,231

**GERMANY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern Munich | 20 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 38 | 20 | 41 |
| Schalke | 20 | 12 | 2 | 6 | 30 | 26 | 38 |
| Stuttgart | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 38 | 26 | 35 |
| Werder Bremen | 20 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 43 | 25 | 34 |
| Hertha Berlin | 20 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 33 | 17 | 33 |
| B Leverkusen | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 35 | 27 | 32 |
| Hamburg | 20 | 10 | 1 | 9 | 35 | 30 | 31 |
| Hannover | 20 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 26 | 22 | 31 |
| Wolfsburg | 20 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 35 | 32 | 30 |
| Kaiserslautern | 20 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| B Dortmund | 20 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 25 | 25 |
| A Bielefeld | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 20 | 26 | 25 |
| Nurnberg | 20 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 34 | 34 | 24 |
| M'gladbach | 20 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 25 | 33 | 24 |
| Mainz | 20 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 27 | 35 | 22 |
| Bochum | 20 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 26 | 42 | 16 |
| Freiburg | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 41 | 15 |
| Hansa Rostock | 20 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 17 | 41 | 13 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
14 Marek Mintal (Nurnberg)
12 Miroslav Klose (Werder Bremen)
11 Delron Buckley (Arminia Bielefeld)
10 Andrii Voronin (Bayer Leverkusen)

## GREECE

**Jan 15:** Aigaleo 2 PAOK 1; Apollon 2 AEK 1.
**Jan 16:** Aris 2 Kallithea 2; Halkidona 0 Kerkira 0; Ergotelis 0 Panionios 3; Olympiakos 1 Iraklis 0; Panathinaikos 5 OFI 1.
**Jan 17:** Xanthi 2 Ionikos 0.
**Jan 22:** Aris 2 Xanthi 1; Panionios 0 Halkidona 0.
**Jan 23:** AEK 1 Aigaleo 0; Ionikos 0 Panathinaikos 0; Iraklis 2 Ergotelis 0; Kallithea 1 Olympiakos 1; Kerkira 0 PAOK 1; OFI 0 Apollon 0.
**Jan 29:** Apollon 1 Ionikos 1; PAOK 1 Panionios 0.
**Jan 30:** Aigaleo 2 OFI 0; Halkidona 0 Iraklis 0; Ergotelis 1 Kallithea 1; Kerkira 2 AEK 2; Olympiakos 2 Aris 1; Xanthi 3 Panathinaikos 1.
**Feb 5:** Panionios 0 Olympiakos 2.

**GREECE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Olympiakos | 17 | 12 | 4 | 1 | 33 | 9 | 40 |
| AEK | 17 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 25 | 13 | 34 |
| Panathinaikos | 17 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 28 | 11 | 33 |
| Xanthi | 17 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 26 | 20 | 29 |
| PAOK | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 23 | 25 |
| Aigaleo | 17 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 16 | 13 | 24 |
| Halkidona | 17 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 15 | 22 |
| OFI | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 22 | 25 | 20 |
| Panionios | 17 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 20 |
| Kallithea | 17 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 24 | 26 | 19 |
| Iraklis | 17 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 19 | 19 |
| Aris | 17 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 19 | 18 |
| Ionikos | 17 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 17 |
| Apollon | 17 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 24 | 15 |
| Ergotelis | 17 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 29 | 15 |
| Kerkira | 17 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 21 | 14 |

*Olympiakos and Panionios have had restored on appeal the 3pts deducted from each because of the crowd violence before their round 14 game*

## HOLLAND

**Friday, January 21**
**AZ 1** (Perez 45)
**NEC 1** (Niedzielan 23) Att: 8,263

**Saturday, January 22**
**De Graafschap 2** (Van Leerdam 81, Van Beukering 90)
**Roda JC 0** Att: 10,800

**Heerenveen 2** (Huntelaar 28, Samaras 60)
**Den Bosch 1** (Cas 71) Att: 17,400

**PSV 4** (Vennegoor of Hesselink 28, 38, Penders og 71, Van Bommel 76)
**NAC 0** Att: 31,000

**Willem II 0**
**Twente 3** (N'Kufo 7, 88, Culina 80) Att: 13,100

**Sunday, January 23**
**Den Haag 0**
**Groningen 3** (Van der Linden 38, Nevland 42, Van Gessel 83) Att: 6,489

**Feyenoord 1** (Kuijt 49)
**Vitesse 2** (Gluscevic 81, 83) Att: 39,500

**RBC 0**
**RKC 1** (Hoogendorp 74) Att: 4,800

**Utrecht 0**
**Ajax 2** (Sneijder 66, Babel 90) Att: 22,600

**Friday, January 28**
**Roda JC 4** (Kah 7, Vicelich 41, Kone 86, Cristiano 90)
**Willem II 0** Att: 12,200

**Saturday, January 29**
**Den Bosch 0**
**AZ 1** (Huysegems 18) Att: 6,123

**Twente 0**
**Feyenoord 0** Att: 13,250

**Vitesse 1** (Frankel 6)
**RBC 3** (De Groot 21, 90, Luijten 63) Att: 20,400

**Sunday, January 30**
**Ajax 0**
**Den Haag 0** Att: 45,199

**Groningen 1** (Nevland 36)
**De Graafschap 0** Att: 12,500

**NAC 1** (Lurling 85)
**Heerenveen 1** (Huntelaar 90) Att: 11,420

**NEC 0**
**Utrecht 0** Att: 12,500

**RKC 1** (Hoogendorp 20)
**PSV 4** (Beasley 35, Vennegoor of Hesselink 38, 69, 82) Att: 7,000

**Wednesday, February 2**
**PSV 4** (Van Bommel pen 51, 58, Vennegoor of Hesselink pen 75, De Jong 83)
**RBC 1** (Guijt 73) Att: 30,200

**Friday, February 4**
**De Graafschap 2** (Bot 9, Van Beukering 85)
**Feyenoord 7** (Kuijt 4, 32, 67, Castelen 25, Lazovic 47, 52, Hofs 61) Att: 11,900

**Willem II 3** (Ceesay 22, Smit 27, Redan 48)
**NEC 1** (Denneboom 78) Att: 11,900

**Saturday, February 5**
**Den Haag 2** (Bodde 41, Edson 69)
**Den Bosch 0** Att: 6,489

**Heerenveen 1** (Hansson 76)
**AZ 3** (Huysegems 41, Sektioui 88, Lindenbergh 90) Att: 17,800

**Sunday, February 6**
**Ajax 1** (Escude 6)
**Twente 2** (N'Kufo 36, Touma 67) Att: 48,912

**RKC 3** (Hoogendorp 9, Molhoek 22, Oost 23)
**Groningen 0** Att: 4,500

**Utrecht 2** (Van den Bergh 2, Keller 60)
**NAC 0** Att: 18,300

**Vitesse 3** (Hersi 23, Jansen 32, Amoah 84)
**Roda JC 0** Att: 17,322

**HOLLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSV | 20 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 54 | 12 | 51 |
| AZ | 20 | 15 | 4 | 1 | 49 | 14 | 49 |
| Ajax | 20 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 44 | 19 | 41 |
| Feyenoord | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 50 | 27 | 35 |
| Vitesse | 20 | 10 | 3 | 7 | 34 | 27 | 33 |
| Utrecht | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 32 |
| Heerenveen | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 34 | 33 | 32 |
| Roda JC | 20 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 36 | 31 | 29 |
| RKC | 20 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 27 | 27 |
| NAC | 20 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 28 | 40 | 27 |
| Twente | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 24 | 26 | 25 |
| Groningen | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 28 | 36 | 25 |
| Willem II | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 25 | 33 | 25 |
| NEC | 20 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 28 | 19 |
| Den Haag | 20 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 31 | 19 |
| De Graafschap | 20 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 21 | 51 | 11 |
| RBC | 20 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 21 | 51 | 11 |
| Den Bosch | 20 | 2 | 3 | 15 | 11 | 48 | 9 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
17 Dirk Kuijt (Feyenoord)
13 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)
12 Klaas Jan Huntelaar (Heerenveen)

## DUTCH CUP – last 16

**Jan 25:** Dordrecht 1 Den Bosch 3; Go Ahead Eagles 0 Willem II 1; PSV 4 Volendam 0.
**Jan 26:** AZ 1 Feyenoord 3; Den Haag 1 Twente 1 (aet; Den Haag 4-3 on pens); NAC 2 Utrecht 1 (aet); TOP Oss 1 RKC 1 (aet; Oss 6-5 on pens).
**Jan 27:** Ajax 2 Heerenveen 0.

## HUNGARY

**HUNGARY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ferencvaros | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 39 | 12 | 35 |
| Debrecen | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 12 | 32 |
| Zalaegerszeg | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 20 | 27 |
| Ujpest | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 27 | 18 | 26 |
| MTK* | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 22 | 15 | 24 |
| Gyor | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 16 | 24 |
| Videoton | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 23 | 14 | 23 |
| Honved | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 33 | 20 |
| Matav | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 25 | 19 |
| Kaposvar | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 27 | 18 |
| Vasas | 15 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 21 | 23 | 16 |
| Pecs | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 21 | 16 |
| Papa | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 21 | 24 | 15 |
| Diosgyor | 15 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 15 | 28 | 13 |
| Bekescsaba | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 31 | 13 |
| Nyiregyhaza | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 18 | 31 | 12 |

**1pt deducted for non-payment of wages to a former coach*

## ITALY

**Saturday, January 15**
**Brescia 1** (Di Pasquale 62)
**Fiorentina 1** (Miccoli 49) Att: 6,705

**Reggina 0**
**Inter 0** Att: 21,445

**Sunday, January 16**
**Atalanta 1** (Sinigaglia 20)
**Siena 1** (Chiesa 45) Att: 11,910

**Cagliari 1** (Zola 89)
**Juventus 1** (Emerson 54) Att: 13,570

**Chievo 2** (Pellissier 15, Tiribocchi 20)
**Roma 2** (Montella 34, 47) Att: 9,523

**Lazio 1** (Bazzani 16)
**Palermo 3** (Toni 42, 86, Zauli 66) Att: 35,914

**Livorno 3** (Vigiani 54, Colombo 58, Protti 75)
**Messina 1** (Giampa 78) Att: 13,372

**Milan 3** (Shevchenko 31, Jankulovski og 53, Kaka 90)
**Udinese 1** (Di Natale 9) Att: 62,417

**Parma 2** (Bresciano 53, Gilardino 90)
**Lecce 1** (Vucinic 82) Att: 12,403

**Sampdoria 0**
**Bologna 0** Att: 22,306

**Wednesday, January 19**
**Messina 1** (Sullo 54)
**Atalanta 0** Att: 30,000

**Saturday, January 22**
**Bologna 1** (Bellucci 70)
**Cagliari 0** Att: 17,089

**Inter 1** (Martins 83)
**Chievo 1** (Mandelli 73) Att: 51,395

**Sunday, January 23**
**Fiorentina 1** (Maresca 20)
**Roma 2** (Cassano 23, Montella 67) Att: 33,788

**Juventus 2** (Trezeguet 12, Domizzi og 43)
**Brescia 0** Att: 37,650

**Lazio 1** (Rocchi 62)
**Sampdoria 2** (Kutuzov 1, Flachi pen 4) Att: 32,875

**Lecce 1** (Bojinov 33)
**Atalanta 0** Att: 15,228

**Livorno 1** (Colombo 28)
**Milan 0** Att: 25,000

**Messina 1** (Di Napoli 80)
**Parma 0** Att: 25,000

**Siena 0**
**Palermo 0** Att: 15,000

**Udinese 0**
**Reggina 2** (Bonazzoli 39, Borriello 90) Att: 15,000

**Saturday, January 29**
**Chievo 1** (Tiribocchi 31)
**Livorno 0** Att: 6,745

ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

# TEAM OF THE MONTH

La Gazzetta dello Sport · don balon · kicker · CHOPT SPORT-EXPRESS · FOOT MAGAZINE · WORLD SOCCER · A BOLA · voetbal INTERNATIONAL · FANATIK · TIPS bladet

## JANUARY 2005 – HOW THEY VOTED

**A BOLA (Por)**
Cech (Chelsea); Cannavaro (Juventus), Terry (Chelsea), Cole (Arsenal); Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester Utd), Lampard (Chelsea), Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Robben (Chelsea); Drogba (Chelsea), Eto'o (Barcelona), Ronaldo (Real Madrid)

**FANATIK (Tur)**
Cech (Chelsea); Puyol (Barcelona), Terry (Chelsea), Samuel (Real Madrid); Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester Utd), Gerrard (Liverpool), Dhorasoo (Milan), Robben (Chelsea); Saviola (Monaco), Montella (Roma), Eto'o (Barcelona)

**GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (Ita)**
Dida (Milan); Maicon (Monaco), Terry (Chelsea), Ferdinand (Manchester Utd), Maldini (Milan); Ronaldinho (Barcelona), Lampard (Chelsea), Essien (Lyon); Robben (Chelsea); Ibrahimovic (Juventus), Ronaldo (Real Madrid)

**SPORT EXPRESS (Rus)**
Cech (Chelsea); Cannavaro (Juventus), Terry (Chelsea), Maldini (Milan); Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester Utd), Lampard (Chelsea), Kaka (Milan), Robben (Chelsea); Drogba (Chelsea), Montella (Roma), Shevchenko (Milan)

**VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Hol)**
Cech (Chelsea); Puyol (Barcelona), Terry (Chelsea), Cannavaro (Juventus); Riquelme (Villarreal), Lampard (Chelsea), Deco (Barcelona), Robben (Chelsea); Eto'o (Barcelona), Ibrahimovic (Juventus), Montella (Roma)

**DON BALON (Spa)**
Reina (Villarreal); Maicon (Monaco), Gallas (Chelsea), Maldini (Milan); Scholes (Manchester Utd), Petrov (Celtic), Riquelme (Villarreal), Robben (Chelsea); Montella (Roma), Martins (Inter), Liedson (Sporting Lisbon)

**FOOT (Blg)**
Cech (Chelsea); Puyol (Barcelona), Terry (Chelsea), Zambrotta (Juventus); Lampard (Chelsea), Emerson (Juventus), Riquelme (Villarreal), Robben (Chelsea); Eto'o (Barcelona), Montella (Roma), Forlan (Villarreal)

**KICKER (Ger)**
Cech (Chelsea); Maicon (Monaco), Terry (Chelsea), Maldini (Milan); Camoranesi (Juventus), Lampard (Chelsea), Keane (Manchester Utd), Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester Utd); Eto'o (Barcelona), Drogba (Chelsea), Montella (Roma)

**TIPS BLADET (Den)**
Sylva (Lille); Paulo Ferreira (Chelsea), Terry (Chelsea), Cris (Lyon), Maldini (Milan); Lampard (Chelsea), Riquelme (Villarreal), Mozart (Reggina), Robben (Chelsea); Montella (Roma), Eto'o (Barcelona)

**WORLD SOCCER (UK)**
Cech (Chelsea); Puyol (Barcelona), Terry (Chelsea), Maldini (Milan); Wright-Phillips (Manchester City), Bodmer (Lille), Riquelme (Villarreal), Robben (Chelsea); Montella (Roma), Eto'o (Barcelona), Johnson (Crystal Palace)

**Parma 1** (Gilardino 35)
**Udinese 0** Att: 10,711

Sunday, January 30

**Atalanta 1** (Thuram og 90)
**Juventus 2** (Olivera 23, Del Piero pen 78) Att: 18,054

**Brescia 0**
**Lecce 1** (Konan 16) Att: 6,847

**Cagliari 1** (Esposito 11)
**Fiorentina 0** Att: 11,500

**Milan 0**
**Bologna 1** (Locatelli 27) Att: 56,756

**Palermo 0**
**Inter 2** (Vieri 5, 58) Att: 34,047

**Reggina 2** (Bonazzoli 71, De Rosa 90)
**Lazio 1** (Cesar 10) Att: 14,622

**Roma 3** (Totti 56, Cassano 60, Mancini 82)
**Messina 2** (Zampagna 12, Parisi 32) Att: 45,328

**Sampdoria 1** (Rossini 79)
**Siena 1** (Vergassola 65) Att: 20,389

Wednesday, February 2

**Fiorentina 1** (Miccoli 72)
**Palermo 2** (Toni 58, Gonzalez 69) Att: 29,222

**Inter 1** (Martins 33)
**Atalanta 0** Att: 48,479

**Juventus 0**
**Sampdoria 1** (Diana 33) Att: 20,016

**Lazio 0**
**Brescia 0** Att: 31,171

**Lecce 1** (Vucinic 79)
**Roma 1** (Giacomazzi og 49) Att: 20,575

**Livorno 1** (Vidigal 84)
**Reggina 1** (Paredes 14) Att: 13,104

**Messina 1** (Zampagna 30)
**Milan 4** (Crespo 9, 64, Tomasson 18, 90) Att: 37,582

**Siena 2** (Chiesa 4, Flo 36)
**Cagliari 2** (Lopez 57, Bianchi 84) Att: 6,139

**Udinese 3** (Jankulovski 47, Moro og 52, Iaquinta 82)
**Chievo 0** Att: 13,180

Thursday, February 3

**Bologna 3** (Sussi 54, Amoroso 72, Bellucci 90)
**Parma 1** (Sorrentino 87) Att: 13,000

Saturday, February 5

**Palermo 1** (Brienza 12)
**Juventus 0** Att: 34,047

**Sampdoria 3** (Flachi 15, Tonetto 33, Diana 74)
**Fiorentina 0** Att: 22,110

Sunday, February 6

**Atalanta 1** (Sala 23)
**Livorno 0** Att: 10,849

**Brescia 0**
**Udinese 1** (Iaquinta 84) Att: 6,497

**Cagliari 3** (Gobbi 11, Esposito 74, 76)
**Lecce 1** (Vucinic 38) Att: 11,756

**Chievo 1** (Tiribocchi 15)
**Messina 0** Att: 7,081

**Milan 2** (Shevchenko 72, Crespo 90)
**Lazio 1** (Oddo pen 56) Att: 56,845

**Parma 2** (Simplicio pen 25, Gilardino 60)
**Inter 2** (Cordoba 76, Vieri pen 82) Att: 18,225

**Reggina 3** (Franceschini 45, Borriello 81, Paredes 84)
**Siena 3** (Vergassola 6, Chiesa 26, 57) Att: 14,878

**Roma 1** (Montella 9)
**Bologna 1** (Della Rocca 62) Att: 43,167

ITALY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 23 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 38 | 14 | 50 |
| Milan | 23 | 14 | 6 | 3 | 41 | 16 | 48 |
| Udinese | 23 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 32 | 21 | 40 |
| Inter | 23 | 8 | 15 | 0 | 44 | 29 | 39 |
| Sampdoria | 23 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 17 | 38 |
| Roma | 23 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 42 | 34 | 35 |
| Palermo | 23 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 22 | 16 | 35 |
| Cagliari | 23 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 33 | 36 | 33 |
| Reggina | 23 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 24 | 25 | 32 |
| Bologna | 23 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 25 | 22 | 31 |
| Lecce | 23 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 39 | 42 | 29 |
| Chievo | 23 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 21 | 32 | 28 |
| Livorno | 23 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 27 |
| Messina | 23 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 27 | 37 | 27 |
| Lazio | 23 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 29 | 35 | 24 |
| Fiorentina | 23 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 30 | 23 |
| Parma | 23 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 24 | 37 | 23 |
| Siena | 23 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 21 | 33 | 21 |
| Brescia | 23 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 15 | 29 | 20 |
| Atalanta | 23 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 16 | 30 | 14 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
18 Vincenzo Montella (Roma)
14 Adriano (Inter)
14 Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)
12 Mauro Esposito (Cagliari)

## ITALIAN CUP – qrt-finals, 1st legs

Jan 26: Milan 3 Udinese 2; Roma 1 Fiorentina 0.
Jan 27: Atalanta 0 Inter 1; Cagliari 2 Sampdoria 0.

# POLAND

POLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wisla K | 13 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 44 | 8 | 35 |
| Legia | 13 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 20 | 11 | 27 |
| Groclin | 13 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 22 | 16 | 25 |
| Amica | 13 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 19 | 12 | 24 |
| Zaglebie | 13 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 22 | 22 | 19 |
| Cracovia | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 14 | 18 |
| Polonia | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 21 | 18 |
| Wisla P | 13 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 17 | 20 | 17 |
| Pogon | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 27 | 15 |
| Gornik Z | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 17 | 13 |
| Odra | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 18 | 13 |
| Gornik L | 13 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 13 | 23 | 12 |
| Lech | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 27 | 12 |
| Katowice | 13 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 35 | 8 |

# PORTUGAL

Saturday, January 15

**Academica 0**
**FC Porto 0**

**Guimaraes 1** (Tiago Targino 90)
**Beira Mar 0**

Sunday, January 16

**Benfica 4** (Simao 40, Nuno Gomes 58, 67, Mantorras 90)
**Boavista 0**

**Gil Vicente 0**
**Penafiel 1** (Nuno Silva 90)

**Maritimo 2** (Bibishkov 24, Buba og 60)
**Estoril 1** (Vargas 90)

**Nacional 3** (Adriano 18, 90, Emerson 21)
**Sporting Lisbon 2** (Liedson 60, Custodio 62)

**Rio Ave 2** (Paulo Cesar 17, Idalecio 46)
**Uniao Leiria 0**

**Sporting Braga 0**
**Moreirense 0**

Monday, January 17

**Setubal 1** (Manuel Jose 84)
**Belenenses 2** (Juninho Petrolina 60, Marco Paulo 89)

Friday, January 21

**Sporting Braga 2** (Jaime 31, Joao Alves 90)
**Academica 0**

Saturday, January 22

**Benfica 0**
**Beira Mar 2** (Tanque Silva 36, 66)

**Guimaraes 0**
**Moreirense 0**

**Nacional 0**
**Boavista 2** (Diogo Valente 48, Nelson 90)

**Setubal 4** (Meyong 14, Bruno Ribeiro 19, Bruno Moraes 25, 46)
**Penafiel 0**

Sunday, January 23

**Gil Vicente 0**
**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Sa Pinto 29, 61, Liedson 77)

**Maritimo 0**
**Belenenses 0**

**Rio Ave 2** (Franco 59, Ricardo Nascimento 85)
**Estoril 1** (Arrieta 3)

**Uniao Leiria 0**
**FC Porto 1** (Ricardo Costa 13)

Saturday, January 29

**Academica 0**
**Guimaraes 2** (Marco Ferreira 75, Targino 90)

**Moreirense 1** (Armando 74)
**Benfica 2** (Nuno Gomes 9, Nuno Assis 36)

Sunday, January 30

**Beira Mar 0**
**Nacional 3** (Wendell pen 2, 68, Miguel Fidalgo 64)

**Belenenses 2** (Antchouet 41, 83)
**Rio Ave 1** (Jose Gomes 71)

**Boavista 2** (Joao Pinto 53, Hugo Almeida 88)
**Gil Vicente 2** (Gregory 10, Carlos Carneiro 80)

**Estoril 1** (Pinheiro 24)
**Uniao Leiria 1** (Ferreira 38)

**Penafiel 0**
**Maritimo 1** (Pena 38)

**FC Porto 1** (Diego pen 33)
**Sporting Braga 3** (Joao Tomas 21, 75, Wender 41)

Monday, January 31

**Sporting Lisbon 1** (Pedro Barbosa 57)
**Setubal 1** (Jorginho 51)

Friday, February 4

**Guimaraes 1** (Cleber 63)
**Sporting Braga 0**

Saturday, February 5

**Estoril 1** (Fellahi pen 38)
**FC Porto 2** (Bosingwa 19, Ricardo Quaresma 23)

**Rio Ave 1** (Gaucho 22)
**Penafiel 0**

**Uniao Leiria 1** (Renato 22)
**Belenenses 0**

Sunday, February 6

**Benfica 3** (Geovanni 32, Simao 58, 80)
**Academica 0**

**Gil Vicente 2** (Roversio 60, Carlos Carneiro 88)
**Beira Mar 0**

**Maritimo 3** (Alan pen 27, Pena 49, Bibishkov 75)
**Sporting Lisbon 0**

**Nacional 4** (Andre Pinto 7, 12, Wendell 39, Alonso 90)
**Moreirense 1** (Lito 45)

Monday, February 7

**Setubal 0**
**Boavista 0**

PORTUGAL

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benfica | 20 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 33 | 21 | 37 |
| FC Porto | 20 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 26 | 14 | 37 |
| Sporting Braga | 20 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 29 | 15 | 36 |
| Sporting Lisbon | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 41 | 27 | 35 |
| Boavista | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 24 | 23 | 35 |
| Maritimo | 20 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 23 | 16 | 33 |
| Rio Ave | 20 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 27 | 22 | 31 |
| Setubal | 20 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 27 | 22 | 29 |
| Guimaraes | 20 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 18 | 29 |
| Uniao Leiria | 20 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 20 | 19 | 27 |
| Nacional | 20 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 27 | 29 | 27 |
| Belenenses | 20 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 29 | 27 | 25 |
| Gil Vicente | 20 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 22 | 24 | 23 |
| Penafiel | 20 | 6 | 2 | 12 | 18 | 36 | 20 |
| Estoril | 20 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 29 | 19 |
| Moreirense | 20 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 17 | 30 | 17 |
| Beira Mar | 20 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 21 | 39 | 17 |
| Academica | 20 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 30 | 13 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
16 Liedson (Sporting Lisbon)
13 Simao Sabrosa (Benfica)
12 Antchouet (Belenenses)
8 Joao Tomas (Sporting Braga)

## PORTUGUESE CUP – last 16

Jan 25: Nacional 3 Boavista 4 (aet).
Jan 26: Academica 1 Maritimo 2; Benfica 3 Sporting Lisbon 3 (aet; Benfica 7-6 on pens); Estreia Amadora 1 Penafiel 0; Oliveira do Hospital 0 Sporting Braga 1; Pinhalnovense 1 Belenenses 2; Setubal 3 Guimaraes 1.

*Bye to quarter-finals: Beira Mar*

# ROMANIA

ROMANIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Steaua | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 13 | 33 |
| Dinamo | 15 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 29 | 20 | 27 |
| National | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 17 | 27 |
| Farul | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 13 | 27 |
| Rapid | 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 24 | 16 | 27 |
| CFR Cluj | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 23 | 19 | 24 |
| Gloria | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 27 | 24 | 20 |
| Otelul | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 20 |
| Bacau | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 20 |
| Sportul | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Poli Iasi | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 25 | 16 |
| Arges | 15 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 18 | 25 | 15 |
| Poli AEK | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 26 | 15 |
| Apulum | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 34 | 15 |
| Brasov | 15 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 18 | 26 | 14 |
| U Craiova | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 22 | 14 |

# SCOTLAND

Saturday, January 15

**Dundee 3** (Robb 28, McManus 48, Sutton pen 56)
**Inverness 1** (Brewster 90) Att: 5,567

**Hearts 3** (Pressley 44, Miller 49, Hartley 86)
**Dundee Utd 2** (Robson 19, Archibald 53) Att: 10,305

**Kilmarnock 2** (Boyd 1, 44)
**Motherwell 0** Att: 5,225

**Livingston 0**
**Hibernian 2** (O'Connor 53, Riordan 74) Att: 6,788

**Rangers 3** (Thompson 6, Andrews 38, A Rae 64)
**Dunfermline 0** Att: 48,055

Sunday, January 16

**Aberdeen 0**
**Celtic 1** (Sutton 24) Att: 17,051

Saturday, January 22

**Celtic 2** (Petrov 32, Sutton 57)
**Motherwell 0** Att: 58,438

**Dundee 1** (Caballero 54)
**Hearts 1** (Hammill 60) Att: 5,780

**Dunfermline 1** (Christiansen 44)
**Dundee Utd 1** (Crawford 72) Att: 6,589

**Hibernian 3** (Riordan 30, 34, 52)
**Kilmarnock 0** Att: 12,660

**Livingston 1** (Horvath 43)
**Inverness 4** (Hart 8, Duncan 39, Bayne 50, Juanjo 73) Att: 4,106

Sunday, January 23
**Aberdeen 1** (Mackie 19)
**Rangers 2** (Prso 9, McNaughton og 16) Att: 17,495

Tuesday, January 25
**Livingston 1** (Lilley 74)
**Hearts 2** (Hartley 85, Miller 86) Att: 4,318

Saturday, January 29
**Dundee Utd 2** (Duff 12, McIntyre 79)
**Dundee 2** (McManus 71, Lovell 85) Att: 12,703

**Hearts 1** (Wyness pen 63)
**Aberdeen 0** Att: 12,269

**Inverness 2** (Wilson 35, Brewster 74)
**Dunfermline 0** Att: 5,449

**Rangers 3** (Prso 14, Ricksen 63, Novo 68)
**Livingston 0** Att: 48,579

Sunday, January 30
**Kilmarnock 0**
**Celtic 1** (Sutton pen 38) Att: 9,723

SCOTLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 24 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 53 | 19 | 62 |
| Rangers | 24 | 18 | 5 | 1 | 51 | 11 | 59 |
| Hibernian | 23 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 41 | 29 | 43 |
| Hearts | 24 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 27 | 21 | 38 |
| Aberdeen | 24 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 24 | 23 | 36 |
| Motherwell | 23 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 28 | 31 | 30 |
| Kilmarnock | 24 | 9 | 2 | 13 | 31 | 40 | 29 |
| Inverness | 24 | 6 | 7 | 11 | 27 | 35 | 25 |
| Dunfermline | 24 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 21 | 36 | 21 |
| Dundee | 24 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 26 | 45 | 21 |
| Dundee Utd | 24 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 25 | 40 | 18 |
| Livingston | 24 | 4 | 4 | 16 | 19 | 43 | 16 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
16 John Hartson (Celtic)
15 Nacho Novo (Rangers)
15 Derek Riordan (Hibernian)

### SCOTTISH CUP – 3rd rnd (last 32)
Jan 17: Gretna 3 Dundee Utd 4.
Jan 24: Ross County 4 Airdrie 1.

*3rd rnd replays*
Jan 18: Dunfermline 3 East Fife 1.
Jan 19: Hearts 2 Partick 1.
Jan 25: Stranraer 0 Ayr 2.

### 4th rnd (last 16)
Feb 5: Aberdeen 2 Inverness 1; Alloa 0 Livingston 1; Ayr 0 St Mirren 2; Hearts 2 Kilmarnock 2; Hibernian 4 Brechin 0; Queen of the South 0 Dundee Utd 3; Ross County 0 Clyde 0.
Feb 6: Dunfermline 0 Celtic 3.

## SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partizan | 15 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 39 | 8 | 41 |
| Red Star | 15 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 38 | 11 | 38 |
| Zeta | 15 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 30 | 12 | 34 |
| OFK | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 22 | 18 | 25 |
| Buducnost P | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 21 | 20 | 23 |
| Zemun | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 19 | 22 |
| Vojvodina | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 19 | 19 |
| Sutjeska | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 21 | 19 |
| Hajduk K | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 16 | 18 | 18 |
| Smederevo | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 17 |
| Cukaricki | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 18 | 16 |
| Radnicki NB | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 16 |
| Borac | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 22 | 16 |
| Obilic | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 27 | 13 |
| Hajduk B | 15 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 29 | 8 |
| Zeleznik | 15 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 26 | 7 |

## SPAIN

Saturday, January 15
**Getafe 1** (Pachon 63)
**Atletico Madrid 1** (Jorge 36) Att: 14,500

**Malaga 1** (Ocio og 66)
**Sevilla 0** Att: 26,000

Sunday, January 16
**Albacete 0**
**Racing Santander 0** Att: 15,000

**Athletic Bilbao 1** (Yeste 3)
**Espanyol 1** (Maxi Rodriguez 32) Att: 34,000

**Barcelona 1** (Eto'o 81)
**Real Sociedad 0** Att: 67,100

**Betis 2** (Edu 27, 85)
**Mallorca 0** Att: 30,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Pandiani 77)
**Numancia 1** (Merino 81) Att: 15,000

**Levante 2** (Rivera 46, Reggi 71)
**Villarreal 4** (Guayre 3, Forlan 27, 60, Marcos Senna 88) Att: 19,362

**Osasuna 0**
**Valencia 0** Att: 16,108

**Real Madrid 3** (Raul 42, Ronaldo 55, Owen 85)
**Zaragoza 1** (Villa 21) Att: 65,000

Saturday, January 22
**Athletic Bilbao 4** (Yeste 60, 65, Tiko 83, Guerrero 90)
**Osasuna 3** (Pablo Garcia 15, Webo 48, Punal 56) Att: 38,000

**Barcelona 3** (Eto'o 8, Ronaldinho 75, Deco 76)
**Racing Santander 0** Att: 67,043

Sunday, January 23
**Albacete 0**
**Sevilla 2** (Renato 36, Antonio 45) Att: 13,000

**Betis 4** (Juanito 15, Marcos Assuncao 25, Ricardo Oliveira 44, 47)
**Numancia 0** Att: 38,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 4** (Jorge Andrade 10, Diego Tristan 22, pen 61, Valeron 82)
**Espanyol 1** (Fredson 17) Att: 24,000

**Getafe 3** (Yordi 12, Nano 14, Mario Cotelo 35)
**Zaragoza 0** Att: 13,500

**Levante 2** (Nacho 4, Congo 47)
**Real Sociedad 1** (Nihat 53) Att: 13,515

**Malaga 1** (Juan Rodriguez 82)
**Atletico Madrid 0** Att: 23,000

**Real Madrid 3** (Figo pen 36, Samuel 80, Solari 90)
**Mallorca 1** (Campano 42) Att: 60,233

**Villarreal 3** (Riquelme pen 17, 45, pen 90)
**Valencia 1** (Aimar pen 89) Att: 21,000

Saturday, January 29
**Atletico Madrid 3** (Fernando Torres pen 19, Ibagaza 28, Pablo Ibanez 44)
**Albacete 1** (Francisco 11) Att: 40,000

**Sevilla 0**
**Barcelona 4** (Eto'o 49, Julio Baptista og 56, Ronaldinho 59, Giuly 74) Att: 45,000

Sunday, January 30
**Espanyol 2** (De la Pena 28, Tamudo 81)
**Betis 2** (Marcos Assuncao 51, Fernando 87) Att: 23,721

**Mallorca 3** (Luis Garcia pen 9, 51, Arango 36)
**Getafe 1** (Yordi 25) Att: 18,000

**Numancia 1** (Miguel 87)
**Real Madrid 2** (Beckham 61, Michel Salgado 82) Att: 9,500

**Osasuna 1** (Pablo Amo og 65)
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Sergio 86) Att: 14,347

**Racing Santander 2** (Javi Guerrero 45, Aganzo pen 75)
**Levante 2** (Nacho Perez 53, Juanma 60) Att: 13,021

**Real Sociedad 0**
**Villarreal 4** (Forlan 57, 81, Riquelme 75, Jose Mari 90) Att: 20,326

**Valencia 2** (Mista 74, Di Vaio 81)
**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Iraola pen 31, Ezquerro 60) Att: 48,000

**Zaragoza 1** (Cani 15)
**Malaga 0** Att: 30,000

Saturday, February 5
**Real Madrid 4** (Zidane 13, Raul 30, 76, Gravesen 84)
**Espanyol 0** Att: 73,000

**Real Sociedad 3** (Nihat 45, 90, Aranburu 80)
**Valencia 3** (Di Vaio 8, Baraja 82, Xisco 88) Att: 15,587

Sunday, February 6
**Albacete 2** (Pacheco pen 46, pen 82)
**Zaragoza 1** (Oscar 14) Att: 15,000

**Barcelona 0**
**Atletico Madrid 2** (Fernando Torres 1, pen 90) Att: 67,112

**Betis 3** (Marcos Assuncao 11, Rivas 36, Ricardo Oliveira 81)
**Osasuna 1** (Valdo 18) Att: 30,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Diego Tristan pen 86)
**Athletic Bilbao 1** (Orbaiz 51) Att: 18,000

**Getafe 1** (Kome 29)
**Numancia 0** Att: 9,000

**Levante 0**
**Sevilla 3** (Antonio 32, Makukula 55, Julio Baptista 84) Att: 17,617

**Malaga 0**
**Mallorca 0** Att: 18,000

**Villarreal 2** (Forlan 48, Riquelme pen 66)
**Racing Santander 1** (Regueiro 23) Att: 20,000

SPAIN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 22 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 43 | 16 | 51 |
| Real Madrid | 22 | 15 | 2 | 5 | 41 | 16 | 47 |
| Valencia | 22 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 35 | 21 | 38 |
| Sevilla | 22 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 26 | 23 | 38 |
| Villarreal | 22 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 37 | 18 | 37 |
| Betis | 22 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 33 | 24 | 37 |
| Espanyol | 22 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 24 | 35 |
| Atletico Madrid | 22 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 24 | 20 | 32 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 22 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 33 | 28 | 31 |
| Dep La Coruna | 22 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 31 | 31 | 29 |
| Osasuna | 22 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 32 | 37 | 29 |
| Zaragoza | 22 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 28 | 34 | 28 |
| Getafe | 22 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 22 | 25 | 26 |
| Levante | 22 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 25 | 36 | 25 |
| Real Sociedad | 22 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 26 | 33 | 23 |
| Albacete | 22 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 20 | 29 | 23 |
| Malaga | 22 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 15 | 30 | 22 |
| R Santander | 22 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 20 | 33 | 21 |
| Mallorca | 22 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 21 | 36 | 18 |
| Numancia | 22 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 13 | 37 | 14 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
16 Samuel Eto'o (Barcelona)
14 Diego Forlan (Villarreal)
12 Ricardo Oliveira (Betis)

### SPANISH CUP – last 16, 2nd legs
Jan 18: Lleida 1 Gramenet 0 *Gramenet 2-1 on agg*; Sevilla 2 Recreativo 1 *Sevilla 4-1 on agg.*
Jan 19: Athletic Bilbao 6 Lanzarote 0 *Athletic Bilbao 7-2 on agg*; Betis 0 Mirandes 0 *Betis 3-1 on agg*; Getafe 3 Osasuna 2 *Osasuna 4-3 on agg*; Numancia 1 Elche 0 (aet) *Agg 1-1. Numancia 5-3 on pens*; Real Madrid 1 Valladolid 1 *Agg 1-1. Valladolid on away goals.*
Jan 20: Atletico Madrid 2 Lorca 0 *Atletico Madrid 5-1 on agg.*

### Quarter-finals, 1st legs
Jan 25: Athletic Bilbao 3 Valladolid 2.
Jan 26: Sevilla 2 Osasuna 1.
Jan 27: Gramenet 2 Betis 2.
Feb 2: Numancia 0 Atletico Madrid 0.

### Quarter-finals, 2nd legs
Feb 2: Betis 4 Gramenet 3 *Betis 6-5 on agg*; Osasuna 3 Sevilla 1 *Osasuna 4-3 on agg.*
Feb 3: Valladolid 0 Athletic Bilbao 1 *Athletic Bilbao 4-2 on agg.*

## SWITZERLAND

SWITZERLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Basle | 18 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 36 | 20 | 35 |
| Thun | 18 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 18 | 28 |
| Neuchatel X | 18 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 22 | 28 |
| Zurich | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 26 | 25 | 25 |
| Young Boys | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 31 | 29 | 24 |
| Aarau | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 23 |
| Grasshopper | 18 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 16 | 26 | 22 |
| Servette* | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 24 | 28 | 20 |
| St Gallen | 18 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 29 | 19 |
| Schaffhausen | 18 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 21 | 32 | 16 |

**3pts deducted for licensing irregularities during the 2003-04 season*

## TURKEY

Jan 28: Konyaspor 0 Galatasaray 2.
Jan 29: Besiktas 1 Malatyaspor 0; Ankaraspor 2 Sebatspor 1; Diyarbakirspor 1 Istanbulspor 0; Sakaryaspor 2 Genclerbirligi 2.
Jan 30: Ankaragucu 1 Samsunspor 2; Gaziantepspor 3 Denizlispor 1; Trabzonspor 3 Kayserispor 1; Fenerbahce 2 Rizespor 0.
Feb 4: Galatasaray 5 Gaziantepspor 1.
Feb 5: Samsunspor 1 Fenerbahce 1; Kayserispor 3 Diyarbakirspor 0; Malatyaspor 2 Ankaraspor 1; Rizespor 1 Konyaspor 1.
Feb 6: Besiktas 1 Genclerbirligi 1; Denizlispor 6 Sakaryaspor 1; Sebatspor 0 Trabzonspor 1.

TURKEY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fenerbahce | 19 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 45 | 10 | 47 |
| Galatasaray | 19 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 37 | 12 | 45 |
| Trabzonspor | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 37 | 14 | 43 |
| Besiktas | 19 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 42 | 26 | 33 |
| Denizlispor | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 30 | 22 | 33 |
| Rizespor | 19 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 24 | 15 | 30 |
| Malatyaspor | 19 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 27 | 24 | 28 |
| Gaziantepspor | 19 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 29 | 30 | 27 |
| Samsunspor | 19 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 26 | 34 | 24 |
| Genclerbirligi | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 22 | 26 | 23 |
| Ankaraspor | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 26 | 28 | 22 |
| Diyarbakirspor | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 19 | 31 | 22 |
| Konyaspor | 19 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 32 | 39 | 21 |
| Ankaragucu | 18 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 27 | 19 |
| Sakaryaspor | 19 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 23 | 43 | 17 |
| Istanbulspor | 18 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 26 | 15 |
| Kayserispor | 19 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 25 | 42 | 14 |
| Sebatspor | 19 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 22 | 47 | 9 |

## UKRAINE

UKRAINE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shakhtar | 15 | 13 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 8 | 39 |
| Dynamo | 15 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 33 | 7 | 38 |
| Metalurh D | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 24 | 15 | 32 |
| Volyn | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 19 | 17 | 25 |
| Chornomorets | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 12 | 23 |
| Dnipro | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 18 | 23 |
| Metalist | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 21 | 20 |
| Illichivets | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 24 | 22 | 20 |
| Arsenal | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 20 | 20 |
| Kryvbas | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 15 | 18 |
| Tavriya | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 15 |
| Metalurh Z | 15 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 14 |
| Vorskla | 15 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 17 | 12 |
| Zakarpattya | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 18 | 11 |
| Obolon | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 21 | 11 |
| Borysfen | 15 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 7 |

# SOUTH AMERICA

## LIBERTADORES CUP

### Preliminary rnd, 1st legs
*Feb 1 - Puerto Ordaz*
**Mineros Guayana (Ven) 0**
**America (Col) 2** (Ferreira pen 15, Chara 23)
**HT:** 0-2

*Feb 1 - Buenos Aires*
**Quilmes (Arg) 0**
**Colo Colo (Chl) 0**

*Feb 2 - Guadalajara*
**Guadalajara (Mex) 3** (R Medina 9, Bautista 69, Bravo 73)
**Cienciano (Per) 1** (Silva 43)
**HT:** 1-1

*Feb 2 - Asuncion*
**Tacuary (Par) 2** (Silva 27, Leite 81)
**Palmeiras (Bra) 2** (Magrao 36, Warley 58)
**HT:** 1-1

*Feb 3 - Barranquilla*
**Atletico Junior (Col) 2** (Leal 5, Acuna 42)
**Oriente Petrolero (Bol) 1** (Villagra 67)
**HT:** 2-0

*Feb 3 - Quito*
**LDU Quito (Ecu) 3** (Salas 56, Palacios 66, Aguinaga 82)
**Penarol (Uru) 0**
**HT:** 0-0

### Preliminary rnd, 2nd legs

*Feb 8 - Cali*
**America 3** (Villarreal 15, Bustos 44, Ferreira 89)
**Mineros Guayana 1** (Garcia 11)
**HT:** 2-1
*America 5-1 on agg*

*Feb 8 - Santiago*
**Colo Colo 2** (Donoso 11, Aceval pen 32)
**Quilmes 2** (Torres 28, Riffo og 62)
**HT:** 2-1
*Sent off: Desabato (Quilmes) 31min*
*Agg 2-2. Quilmes on away goals*

*Feb 9 - Cusco*
**Cienciano 1** (Lobaton 59)
**Guadalajara 5** (Bravo 49, 77, Palencia 56, Vela 73, Medina 76)
**HT:** 0-0
*Guadalajara 8-2 on agg*

*Feb 9 - Sao Paulo*
**Palmeiras 2** (Ricardinho 4, 90)
**Tacuary 0**
**HT:** 1-0
*Sent off: Claudecir (Palmeiras) 60min*
*Palmeiras 4-2 on agg*

*Feb 10 - Santa Cruz*
**Oriente Petrolero 1** (Espinola 33)
**Atletico Junior 3** (Acuna 16, Leal 24, 0 Perez 67)
**HT:** 1-2
*Atletico Junior 5-2 on agg*

*Feb 10 - Montevideo*
**Penarol 4** (Obregon og 25, Gaglianone 45, Pierre 71, Tejera 90)
**LDU Quito 1** (Mendez 22)
**HT:** 2-1
*Sent off: Aguinaga 41min, Obregon 87min, Gonzalez 90min (all LDU)*
*Agg 4-4. LDU on away goals*

*Winners qualified for group stage*

### Group stage schedule

**Group 1**
**Feb 15:** Independiente Medellin (Col) v Atletico Paranaense (Bra).
**Feb 17:** Libertad (Par) v America.
**Feb 22:** America v Independiente Medellin.
**Mar 1:** Atletico Paranaense v Libertad.
**Mar 8:** Libertad v Independiente Medellin.
**Mar 10:** America v Atletico Paranaense.
**Mar 17:** Independiente Medellin v Libertad.
**Apr 14:** Atletico Paranaense v America.
**Apr 20:** Libertad v Atletico Paranaense.
**Apr 26:** Independiente Medellin v America.
**May 10:** Atletico Paranaense v Independiente Medellin; America v Libertad.

**Group 2**
**Feb 16:** Bolivar (Bol) v Santos (Bra).
**Feb 24:** Danubio (Uru) v LDU Quito.
**Mar 3:** Santos v Danubio.
**Mar 8:** LDU Quito v Bolivar.
**Mar 15:** Danubio v Bolivar.
**Mar 17:** LDU Quito v Santos.
**Apr 6:** Santos v LDU Quito.
**Apr 12:** Bolivar v Danubio.
**Apr 20:** Danubio v Santos.
**Apr 27:** Bolivar v LDU Quito.
**May 11:** Santos v Bolivar; LDU Quito v Danubio.

**Group 3**
**Feb 22:** Universidad de Chile (Chi) v Quilmes.
**Mar 3:** The Strongest (Bol) v Sao Paulo (Bra).
**Mar 8:** Sao Paulo v Universidad de Chile.
**Mar 10:** Quilmes v The Strongest.
**Mar 15:** Universidad de Chile v The Strongest.
**Mar 16:** Quilmes v Sao Paulo.
**Apr 13:** The Strongest v Universidad de Chile; Sao Paulo v Quilmes.
**Apr 21:** Universidad de Chile v Sao Paulo.
**Apr 28:** The Strongest v Quilmes.
**May 11:** Sao Paulo v The Strongest; Quilmes v Universidad de Chile.

**Group 4**
**Mar 2:** Deportivo Tachira (Ven) v Santo Andre (Bra); Cerro Porteno (Par) v Palmeiras.
**Mar 10:** Santo Andre v Cerro Porteno; Palmeiras v Deportivo Tachira.
**Mar 16:** Palmeiras v Santo Andre.
**Apr 7:** Cerro Porteno v Deportivo Tachira.
**Apr 14:** Deportivo Tachira v Cerro Porteno.
**Apr 19:** Santo Andre v Palmeiras.
**Apr 28:** Cerro Porteno v Santo Andre.
**May 4:** Deportivo Tachira v Palmeiras.
**May 12:** Santo Andre v Deportivo Tachira; Palmeiras v Cerro Porteno.

**Group 5**
**Feb 15:** Nacional (Uru) v Atletico Junior.
**Feb 23:** Olmedo (Ecu) v River Plate (Arg).
**Mar 1:** Atletico Junior v Olmedo.
**Mar 3:** River Plate v Nacional.
**Mar 16:** Nacional v Olmedo.
**Mar 17:** Atletico Junior v River Plate.
**Apr 7:** River Plate v Atletico Junior; Olmedo v Nacional.
**Apr 19:** Olmedo v Atletico Junior.
**Apr 21:** Nacional v River Plate.
**May 3:** River Plate v Olmedo; Atletico Junior v Nacional.

**Group 6**
**Feb 15:** Alianza Lima (Per) v Tigres (Mex).
**Feb 17:** Caracas (Ven) v Banfield (Arg).
**Feb 23:** Banfield v Alianza Lima; Tigres v Caracas.
**Mar 1:** Alianza Lima v Caracas.
**Mar 15:** Tigres v Banfield.
**Apr 5:** Caracas v Alianza Lima.
**Apr 6:** Banfield v Tigres.
**Apr 12:** Alianza Lima v Banfield.
**Apr 13:** Caracas v Tigres.
**May 3:** Banfield v Caracas; Tigres v Alianza Lima.

**Group 7**
**Feb 16:** Cobreloa (Chl) v Guadalajara.
**Feb 24:** Once Caldas (Col) v San Lorenzo (Arg).
**Mar 2:** Guadalajara v Once Caldas.
**Mar 9:** San Lorenzo v Cobreloa.
**Mar 22:** Cobreloa v Once Caldas.
**Mar 23:** Guadalajara v San Lorenzo.
**Apr 5:** San Lorenzo v Guadalajara; Once Caldas v Cobreloa.
**Apr 12:** Once Caldas v Guadalajara.
**Apr 26:** Cobreloa v San Lorenzo.
**May 5:** San Lorenzo v Once Caldas; Guadalajara v Cobreloa.

**Group 8**
**Feb 16:** Sporting Cristal (Per) v Pachuca (Mex).
**Feb 17:** Deportivo Cuenca (Ecu) v Boca Juniors (Arg).
**Feb 24:** Pachuca v Deportivo Cuenca.
**Mar 2:** Boca Juniors v Sporting Cristal.
**Mar 8:** Sporting Cristal v Deportivo Cuenca.
**Mar 16:** Pachuca v Boca Juniors.
**Apr 6:** Boca Juniors v Pachuca.
**Apr 14:** Deportivo Cuenca v Sporting Cristal.
**Apr 27:** Deportivo Cuenca v Pachuca; Sporting Cristal v Boca Juniors.
**May 4:** Boca Juniors v Deportivo Cuenca; Pachuca v Sporting Cristal.

*Top two from each group qualify for knockout stages*

### 1st knockout rnd
*1st legs - May 18; 2nd legs - May 25*

### Quarter-finals
*1st legs - June 1; 2nd legs - June 15*

### Semi-finals
*1st legs - June 22; 2nd legs - June 29*

### Final
*1st leg - July 6; 2nd leg - July 13*

## CHILE

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Jan 21:** Huachipato 4 Dep La Serena1; Palestino 3 Rangers 1.
**Jan 22:** Coquimbo Unido 2 Dep Concepcion 0; Everton 3 U de Chile 2; Dep Temuco 1 Cobresal 1.
**Jan 23:** Colo Colo 2 Puerto Montt 0; U Catolica 5 Dep Melipilla 0; San Felipe 3 Santiago Wanderers 2.
**Jan 28:** Santiago Wanderers 1 Colo Colo 1; Audax Italiano 1 Everton 1; Rangers 0 Union Espanola 0.
**Jan 29:** Cobreloa 1 Palestino 0; Dep La Serena 2 U de Concepcion 0; Puerto Montt 1 U Catolica 2; Dep Concepcion 1 Huachipato 1; Dep Melipilla 0 Dep Temuco 0.
**Jan 30:** U de Chile 2 San Felipe 0; Cobresal 2 Coquimbo Unido 1.
**Feb 1:** Everton 1 U de Concepcion 1; Union Espanola 3 Audax Italiano 3.
**Feb 2:** Huachipato 5 Cobreloa 4; Dep Temuco 1 U Catolica 2; Dep Concepcion 2 Santiago Wanderers 1; Puerto Montt 0 Dep Melipilla 1; Rangers 1 Dep La Serena 2.
**Feb 3:** Coquimbo Unido 1 U de Chile 3; Palestino 1 San Felipe 2.
**Feb 5:** Audax Italiano 1 Colo Colo 1; Santiago Wanderers 4 Everton 1.
**Feb 6:** U de Chile 2 Palestino 0; U de Concepcion 0 Cobreloa 1; U Catolica 1 Union Espanola 1; Dep Temuco 1 Huachipato 2; Dep Melipilla 0 Coquimbo Unido 1; Cobresal 3 Puerto Montt 0; San Felipe 0 Rangers 1; Dep La Serena 2 Dep Concepcion 2.

**CHILE – OPENING – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Huachipato | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 7 | 10 |
| San Felipe | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Colo Colo | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Dep Melipilla | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| Audax Italiano | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 |

**GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dep La Serena | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Cobreloa | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Coq'bo Unido | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| S Wanderers | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| Puerto Montt | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 0 |

**GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dep Concepcion | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Union Espanola | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Palestino | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Dep Temuco | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| U Concepcion | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

**GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U Catolica | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 10 |
| U de Chile | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 9 |
| Cobresal | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| Everton | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
| Rangers | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

## VENEZUELA

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Jan 9:** Carabobo 0 Caracas 0; Estudiantes 2 ItalMaracaibo 2; UA Maracaibo 3 Dep Tachira 0; Mineros Guayana 2 Monagas 0; Ital-Chacao 3 Trujillanos 1.
**Jan 15:** Caracas 3 Trujillanos 1.
**Jan 16:** Monagas 0 Estudiantes 1; Dep Tachira 3 Mineros Guayana 0; Carabobo 1 UA Maracaibo 1; ItalMaracaibo 1 Ital-Chacao 0.
**Jan 23:** Mineros Guayana 1 Carabobo 1; Estudiantes 1 Dep Tachira 1; Ital-Chacao 5 Monagas 3; Trujillanos 0 ItalMaracaibo 3; UA Maracaibo 0 Caracas 0.
**Jan 29:** ItalMaracaibo 0 Caracas 3; Dep Tachira 2 Ital-Chacao 1.
**Jan 30:** Monagas 2 Trujillanos 2; Carabobo 2 Estudiantes 0.
**Feb 2:** Caracas 2 Dep Tachira 0.
**Feb 5:** Mineros Guayana 2 Caracas 2; UA Maracaibo 3 Estudiantes 1.
**Feb 6:** Ital-Chacao 0 Carabobo 0; Trujillanos 0 Dep Tachira 1; ItalMaracaibo 2 Monagas 4.

**VENEZUELA – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Caracas | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 12 |
| Dep Tachira | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 10 |
| UA Maracaibo | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| Ital-Chacao | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Carabobo | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| ItalMaracaibo | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| Mineros G'ana | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Estudiantes | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Monagas | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 12 | 4 |
| Trujillanos | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 1 |

# CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

## CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CUP

### Quarter-finals draw
DC United (USA) v Harbour View (Jam)
Kansas City Wizards (USA) v Saprissa (CR)
Monterrey (Mex) v Municipal (Gtm)
Olimpia (Hnd) v Pumas UNAM (Mex)
*1st legs - Mar 9; 2nd legs - Mar 16*

### Semi-finals draw
Monterrey OR Municipal v KC Wizards OR Saprissa
Olimpia OR Pumas v DC United OR Harbour View
*1st legs - Apr 6; 2nd legs - Apr 13*

### Final
*1st leg - May 4; 2nd leg - May 11*

## MEXICO

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Jan 15:** Toluca 1 Necaxa 0; Cruz Azul 3 Puebla 1; Dorados 0 America 1; Tigres 0 Jaguares 0; Veracruz 0 Monterrey 2; Atlas 1 Santos 2.
**Jan 16:** Pachuca 0 Morelia 1; Atlante 1 Guadalajara 1; Tecos UAG 1 Pumas UNAM 0.
**Jan 22:** Jaguares 1 Cruz Azul 3; Monterrey 1 Tigres 1; Morelia 1 Toluca 0; Guadalajara 0 Pachuca 4; Necaxa 4 Veracruz 0.
**Jan 23:** Pumas UNAM 0 Atlante 1; America 3 Tecos UAG 3; Puebla 5 Atlas 2; Santos 2 Dorados 1.
**Jan 29:** Toluca 2 Guadalajara 1; Cruz Azul 6 Monterrey 1; Dorados 0 Puebla 0; Tigres 2 Necaxa 0; Veracruz 1 Morelia 1; Atlas 0 Jaguares 1.
**Jan 30:** America 4 Santos 2; Tecos UAG 3 Atlante 0; Pachuca 1 Pumas UNAM 3.
**Feb 5:** Jaguares 2 Dorados 2; Monterrey 1 Atlas 0; Morelia 2 Tigres 1; Guadalajara 2 Veracruz 0; Necaxa 0 Cruz Azul 1.
**Feb 6:** Pumas UNAM 1 Toluca 2; Atlante 1 Pachuca 1; Puebla 2 America 2; Santos 4 Tecos UAG 2.

**MEXICO – CLOSING – GROUP 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morelia | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 10 |
| America | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 7 | 8 |
| Tecos UAG | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 7 |
| Atlante | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Pumas UNAM | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Dorados | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 |

**GROUP 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cruz Azul | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 12 |
| Toluca | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Puebla | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| Tigres | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Guadalajara | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Atlas | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 0 |

**GROUP 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Santos | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 9 |
| Monterrey | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Jaguares | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Pachuca | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Necaxa | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Veracruz | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
4 Francisco Fonseca (Cruz Azul)
4 Daniel Luduena (Tecos UAG)
4 Matias Vuoso (Santos)

We're going through...Guadalajara's Alejandro Vela celebrates his goal in the 5-1 Libertadores Cup drubbing of Cienciano

# AFRICA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Preliminary rnd, 1st legs

**Jan 28:** Al Olympique (Lby) 2 Renaissance (Chd) 0.
**Jan 29:** Al Hilal (Sud) 2 Awassa Kenema (Eth) 1; ASC Diaraf (Sen) 2 Fello Star Labe (Gui) 1; FAR Rabat (Mor) 4 ACS Ksar (Mra) 0; Kaizer Chiefs (SAf) 2 AS Port Louis (Mrs) 0; La Passe (Sey) 2 USJF Ravinala (Mad) 2; Sagrada Esperanca (Ang) 0 Mangasport (Gab) 0; Tusker (Ken) 4 KMKM (Zan) 1.
**Jan 30:** Ajax Cape Town (SAf) 1 Mhlambanyatsi Rovers (Swa) 0; AS Aviacao (Ang) 3 Blue Waters (Nam) 0; CAPS United (Zim) 4 Lesotho Defence Force (Les) 1; DC Motema Pembe (DRC) 3 Rayon Sport (Rwa) 0; Djoliba (Mli) 1 AS Douanes (Sen) 1; Dolphin (Nig) 3 Renacimiento (EqG) 0; Racing Bafoussam (Cam) 1 Donjo (Ben) 0; Red Arrows (Zam) 0 Diables Noirs (Con) 0; SC Villa (Uga) 1 Adulis (Eri) 0; Simba SC (Tan) 2 Ferroviario Nampula (Moz) 1; TP Mazembe (DRC) 2 ASFA Yennega (BuF) 0.

*Asante Kotoko (Gha) v Wallidan (Gam) – Wallidan withdrawn by Gambian FA; Asante Kotoko walkover*

## AFRICAN CONFEDERATION CUP

### Preliminary rnd, 1st legs

**Jan 28:** CS Cilu (DRC) 5 CO Bouafle (IvC) 0.
**Jan 29:** AS Nianan Koulikoro (Mli) 1 OC Khouribga (Mor) 1; ASFB (BuF) 3 Al Ittihad (Lby) 0; BDF (Bot) 3 Sonangol Namibe (Ang) 1; Green Buffaloes (Zam) 1 APR FC (Rwa) 0; Kipanga (Zan) 1 Kampala City Council (Uga) 1;
**Jan 30:** DUC (Sen) 1 COD Meknes (Mor) 0; Gazelle (Chd) 3 FC 105 Libreville (Gab) 1; Mogas 90 (Ben) 1 AS Douanes (Tog) 3; Savanne SC (Mrs) 2 Red Star (Sey) 0; Sony Ela Nguema (EqG) 0 Muni Sport (Con) 0; USCA Foot (Mad) 4 Prisons SC (Tan) 1.

*Armed Forces (Gam) v Cl Kamsar (Gui) – Armed Forces withdrawn by Gambian FA; Cl Kamsar walkover*

*Banks (Eth) v Chemelil Sugar (Ken) – Chemelil Sugar withdrew; Banks walkover*

*Hearts of Lions (Gha) v ASAC Concorde (Mra) – Hearts withdrew; ASAC Concorde walkover*

*Byes: Ferroviario Maputo (Moz), King Faisal Babies (Gha)*

# ASIA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Group stage draw

**Group A:** Pas (Irn), Al Shorta (Irq), Al Salmia (Kuw), Al Rayyan (Qat).
**Group B:** Al Ain (UAE), Sepahan (Irn), Al Shabab (Sau), Al Wahda (Syr).
**Group C:** Neftchi (Uzb), Al Ahli (UAE), Al Sadd (Qat), Al Kuwait (Kuw).
**Group D:** Al Zawra'a (Irq), Pakhtakor (Uzb), Al Jaish (Syr), Al Ahli (Sau).
**Group E:** Shenzhen Jianlibao (Chn), Suwon Bluewings (SKo), Hoang Anh Gia Lai (Vie), Jubilo Iwata (Jap).
**Group F:** BEC Tero Sasana (Tha), Shandong Luneng (Chn), Yokohama F Marinos (Jap), PSM Makasaar (Ins).
**Group G:** Busan I.cons (SKo), Krung Thai Bank (Tha), Persebaya Surabaya (Ins), Binh Dinh (Vie).

*Matches start Mar 9; group winners qualify for quarter-finals*
*Bye to quarter-finals: Al Ittihad (Sau; defending champions)*

## AFC CUP

### Group stage draw

**Group A:** Al Faisaly (Jor), Muktijoddha (Ban), East Bengal (Ind), Nebitchi (Tkm).
**Group B:** Al Ahed (Leb), Al Hussein (Jor), Dempo (Ind).
**Group C:** Brothers Union (Ban), Nijmeh (Leb), Asudalyk (Tkm).
**Group D:** Perak (Mly), Valencia (Mdv), Sun Hei (HK), Tampines Rovers (Sin).
**Group E:** New Radiant (Mdv), Pahang (Mly), Home United (Sin), Happy Valley (HK).

*Matches start Mar 9; group winners and the three best runners-up qualify for quarter-finals*

# the Knowledge

everything you need to know about...

# Player nicknames

Snapping and barking...Edgar 'Pitbull' Davids

ANIMALS remain a popular source of player nicknames: Edgar Davids, the Pitbull; Garrincha, the Little Bird; Ariel Ortega, the Little Donkey ('Burrito'); Javier Saviola, the Rabbit ('Cornejo'); Roberto Ayala, the Mouse ('El Raton'); Roberto Acuna, the Bull ('El Toro').

Most animal nicknames reflect a player's style of play, but Marcelo Sosa was known as Pato, the Duck, from an early age when he was something of a wild child, screwing up (in colloquial Spanish, doing a shit) all the time, a bit like a duck (a shit with every step).

Insects are another inspiration for nicknames, from former Celtic star Jimmy Johnstone, known as the Flea, to Claudio Lopez (the Louse) and Hertha Berlin midfielder Andreas Neuendorf, who is known as Zecke, the German for tick or flea.

Nicknames often derive from a style of play. Hence Stig Tofting, the Lawn Mower; Ferenc Puskas, the Little Cannon; Pablo Aimar, the Clown ('El Payaso'); Marcel Desailly, the Rock; Laurent Blanc, Le President; Marcelo Salas, 'El Matador'; former Flamengo winger Julio Cesar, Uri Geller (for his contortion antics); Ariel Ibagaza, Nutmeg ('El Cano'); Walter Pandiani, the Rifle; Walter Samuel, the Wall; Giuseppe Bergomi, Zio (Italian for uncle, because even as a teenager, he had a mature, authoritative demeanour).

Appearance and looks provide another source: Alvaro Recoba, El Chino (because of his slanted eyes); Ivan De la Pena, The Peeled One ('Lo Pelat'); Juan Carlos Valeron, the Skinny One ('El Flaco'); Thomas Gravesen, the Ogre or Shrek.

**'Former Flamengo winger Julio Cesar was nicknamed Uri Geller because of his contortion antics'**

Age is another factor. Fernando Torres is known as 'El Nino' (The Kid), while there have been numerous 'Grandads', including Amedeo Carboni and Mauro Silva.

A player's background is a rich source. Carlos Tevez is known affectionately as Carlito, but also as 'El Apache', a reference to his upbringing in a terrifying part of Buenos Aires known colloquially as Fort Apache. Zaragoza striker David Villa is known as 'El Guaje' (miner's apprentice) because he's from the mining region of Asturias.

Brazil is probably the world's most productive nation when it comes to nicknames. Often players are known by their nicknames: Tostao (which translates as the smallest coin, i.e. titch); Dunga (dopey, from the Seven Dwarfs); Branco (white in Portuguese) was the only white kid in his five-a-side team.

English nicknames tend to be among the most unimaginative – Scholesy etc. But there are flashes of inspiration – take Crystal Palace's 'One Size' Fitz Hall, for example.

Animated...Thomas 'Shrek' Gravesen

Italians tend not to stray far from affectionate abbreviations such as Andrii 'Sheva' Shevchenko. But there are a few exceptions: Roberto Baggio was Il Divino Codino (the Divine Ponytail) while Alex Del Piero was dubbed Il Pinturicchio after a Renaissance painter.

Heavenly hair...Roberto Baggio

Some nicknames require explanation. Growing up in Bosnia, Bayern Munich midfielder Hasan Salihamidzic was given the moniker 'Brazzo', which means cheeky little devil. Danish Euro 92 winner John Jensen is known as 'Faxe' because of his love of a beer of that name. Henrik Pedersen of Bolton is known as 'The Carpenter' because early in his career he used to wear trousers with wide, deep pockets, similar to those a carpenter might don.

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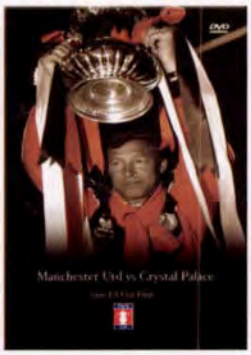

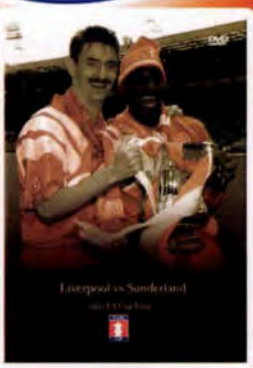


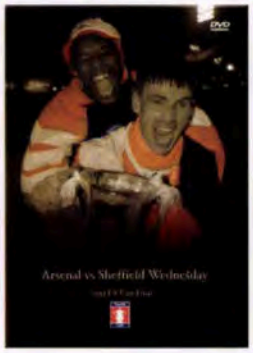


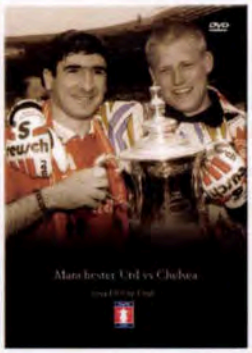

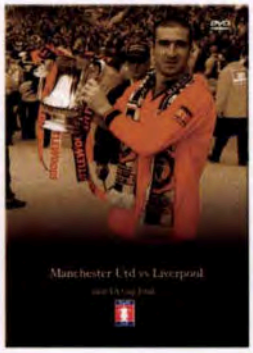


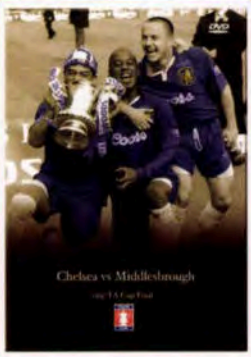


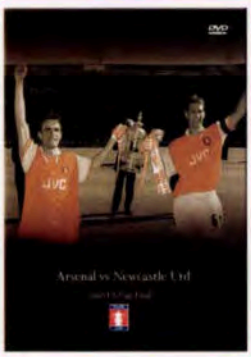


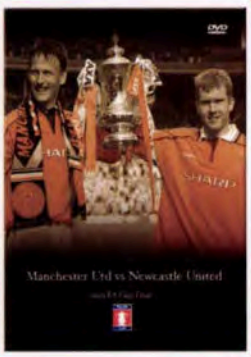


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